



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 9 2015

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 401, which directs the State Water Resources Control Board and Board of Equalization to develop a plan for establishing and funding a low-income water rate assistance program. My administration and the Legislature have taken important steps to promote access to safe, clean, affordable water. Yet, too many Californians still lack affordable, safe drinking water.

While the plan called for in this bill will provide a path for modest, additional steps, we already know that Proposition 218 serves as the biggest impediment to public water systems being able to establish low-income rate assistance programs. Proposition 218 similarly serves as an obstacle to thoughtful, sustainable water conservation pricing and necessary flood and stormwater system improvements. My administration will work with the Legislature and stakeholders next year to address these problems, while maintaining rate payer protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.