

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 11, 2006

WORKSHOP NOTICE

To All Interested Parties:

In an on-going effort to assist low-income ratepayers and to fulfill objectives of the Commission's Water Action Plan and PU Code 739.8, the Water Division will hold a workshop to provide interested parties the opportunity to discuss proposals for a low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program for residents of multi-family housing units.

A Workshop Agenda and a proposed LIRA program for residents of multi-family housing units are attached to this notice.

The workshop will be held in **Room 3104** at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco on January 23, 2007 from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**. Questions about the workshop may be addressed to Sean Wilson of the Water Division (415-703-1818; e-mail: smw@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "K-P-Coughlan".

Kevin P. Coughlan
Director, CPUC Water Division

Attachments

Proposed LIRA Program for Residents of Multi-Family Housing Units

Current Public Utilities (PU) Code 739.8 addresses the provision of low-income rate assistance programs for “ratepayers” of regulated water utilities. Since residents of multi-family housing units (MFHU) are not directly billed for water service (since a master meter is normally in place in this type of building), any low-income “users” of water service that reside in a MFHU are not eligible for the current low-income program required by PU Code. Therefore, the Water Division (WD) proposes that a program (detailed below) be instituted that would include those qualifying non-customer users in the water utility’s LIRA program..

- A. Institute a LIRA program that provides funds (see A.i) to qualifying non-customers that are users of water (see A.ii) provided by the water utility (that qualify under the provisions of the existing LIRA program for the company but are not customers).
 1. Amount provided to these qualifying non-customer users shall be equal to the discount provided to qualifying low-income customers of the utility.
 2. Qualifying non-customer users are those individuals living in MFHU that use water provided by the utility and qualify for the utility’s LIRA program (except for the fact that they are not customers of the utility).
- B. Qualifying non-customer users shall be responsible for signing up for this program with the utility by providing the same proof of qualification as customers (except for a water utility bill).
 1. These qualifying non-customer users shall be required to comply with all rules set forth in the utility’s applicable LIRA tariffs, except as follows:
 - i. With regards to renewal of qualification, these qualifying non-customer users shall renew their participation in the LIRA program on an annual basis.
- C. There shall be no involvement by the landlord in this process.
- D. The utility shall advertise this program in various public media forms and coordinate with community organizations to reach qualified non-customer users.
- E. A check for the amount that the qualifying non-customer user is due under this program shall be sent directly to them from the water utility on a quarterly basis.
- F. There would be no change necessary to the water utilities billing system. The utility shall account for the amount paid to qualifying non-customer users as well as the associated costs of administering this program as an expense.
 1. These costs shall be recorded in a memorandum account and collected in the utility’s next general rate case.

LIRA Workshop
California Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco
Room 3104
January 23, 2007
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Agenda

1. Housekeeping

- a. Introductions and Ground Rules
- b. Goals of this workshop: Discuss positions regarding the Proposed LIRA program for residents of multi-family housing units, address concerns of parties, and agree on next steps in this process.

2. Agenda Items

- a. **Opinions regarding Proposal:** Each party will have a minimum of 5 minutes to present their opinion. (time dependant on number of participants).
- b. **Discussion of Proposal:** Participants discuss proposal, concerns of parties, and possible resolution of concerns.
- c. **Next Steps:** Water Division may seek legislative changes and develop standard tariff language based on issues discussed in this workshop, that each Class A utility may file with CPUC via advice letter.