



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 703-2544
Fax: (415) 703-2057

Dana S. Appling, Director

<http://dra.ca.gov>

April 17, 2007

Honorable Rick Keene
State Capitol, Room 2158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1173 (Keene) Support

Dear Assemblymember Keene:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) supports your AB 1173, which would require water purveyor's to install meters in each rental unit of a multiunit residential structure by the specified time and require multiunit residential property owners to disclose in writing to potential tenants the method by which their water bills will be calculated. In the event that a water meter cannot be installed in each unit of a multiunit residential structure, the owner may charge tenants separately for water service based on a formula that reflects the square footage of the unit or the number of tenants residing in a unit.

AB 1173 would provide the right price signal to ratepayers based on their level of water consumption, and the ability to track their water usage. Ratepayers who track their water usage and choose to conserve will reduce their water bills and promote water sustainability.

AB 1173 is also consistent with the Commission's Water Action Plan objective of assisting low income ratepayers. By installing meters in each rental unit of a multiunit residential structure, qualifying customers will be able to apply for Low Income Water Programs provided by their regulated water utility. This will greatly increase the participation in these programs of customers eligible for low-income assistance.

DRA supports your bill with this hope and looks forward to working with you to pass this legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call Matthew Marcus our Legislative Director at (916) 327-3455 or me at (415) 703-2544.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Appling, Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates