

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/17/2020 12:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0002-S106

Comments for Public Posting: See attached



June 24, 2020

The Honorable Steven Bradford
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 625 (Bradford): Central Basin Municipal Water District: Receivership--
OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Bradford:

We, the undersigned environmental, environmental justice and health groups, are writing to express our **OPPOSITION** to SB 625. This bill seeks to address long standing local water management infrastructure failures in the Southeast and East Los Angeles region through state legislation. It attempts to make those changes without any opportunity for the communities in the region to help shape a long-term solution that will directly impact them and it denies the public their right to elect their representatives. It does this by dissolving the Board of Directors (Board) of the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) and requiring the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to act as the receiver for CBMWD.

As environmental justice and health organizations, we have always worked to address current and potential threats to public health and protect the community's right to effect change within their community. During the pandemic, that work is more important than ever. Accessibility to safe and clean water has been key in reducing the spread of COVID-19, something that is not lost on the Newsom Administration, which enacted a water shut-off moratorium through [Executive Order N-42-20](#). Though we cannot yet be certain about the extent of COVID-19's potential impact, we are certain the principles of a strong water management infrastructure is a key benefit to public health.

We have also advocated for community-driven solutions that respect the rights of communities to decide and participate in key decision-making processes that ultimately affect their quality of life and health. Unfortunately, Los Angeles County's water management infrastructure and hierarchy, especially in the Southeast and East Los

Angeles region, is operated with a wild west mentality. The fact that there are over 100 different public and private entities tasked with delivering water to Los Angeles County communities only makes achieving transparency and accountability that much harder.

We believe a proper democratic process that actively engages community members beyond public elections of new members is vital for real solutions to Southeast and East Los Angeles' water issues, especially as the COVID-19 crisis further stifles public participation opportunities. Unfortunately, this bill builds on the communities' existing distrust and does not have enough community oversight to be considered a real solution.

It is for that reason we must respectfully oppose SB 625.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

Diana Vazquez Ballesteros
Policy Manager, California Environmental Justice Alliance

Brandon Dawson
Policy Advocate, Sierra Club California

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/17/2020 01:24 PM

Council File No: 20-0002-S106

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attachment



INDIVISIBLE★
MARIN

NORMAL HEIGHTS
INDIVISIBLE

350 SOUTH BAY LOS ANGELES

Indivisible
California
**GREEN
TEAM**



To: Senator Bradford, Senator Stern, Senator Archuleta
June 8, 2020

RE: PULL and Kill SB-625 “An Attempted Hostile Water Grab”

Senate Bill 625 is an effort to transfer the assets and public water rights of over 2 million constituents, 70% Latino in Senator Bob Archuleta's district into another agency while all that needs to be done is allow a court hearing scheduled for July 23, 2020 to take place that will determine whether 4 members of the Central Basin Board are a majority. The discrepancy can be easily resolved by the courts. Also, another option would be to vote out the board member that ends the meetings after 1 minute or 90 seconds, in order to sabotage decisions, his name is Bob Apodaca. The voters can vote him out or recall him. It's not necessary to treat an agency in a Black and Brown Community as if it had no right to a voice or a vote. Please pull the SB Bill 625 immediately and without delay, as we know it is dead on arrival to the Senate. In addition to the above:

- Violates all notice rules and due process
- SB625 was introduced 12 days ago without input from the community
- Disenfranchises over \$2 million voters in Southeast Los Angeles wiping out a democratically elected board
- Cancels an election
- Violates the very law that created Central Basin by way of a ballot election from its electorate
- Eliminates a majority Latino elected water board in a time where there is a need for more Latino representation in this industry

- Violates civil rights, Voting Rights, Cancels and upcoming election in November
- Threatens other Metropolitan Water District of Southern Ca member agencies
- There was no notice to the community about this Bill
- Plan to give away approx. \$100 million in public assets to secret private water interest
- Eliminates Central Basin's representation on the Metropolitan Water District
- Bill was introduced on May 26, 2020 as a gut and amend meant to deceive the citizens of our District with false statements
- This is not a Covid-19 bill and the hysteria created about water safety is false. The water is delivered by MWD.
- The issues identified in the 2015 CA Audit were addressed long ago.
-
- Makes numerous misrepresentations about the status of Central Basin

The following are some important FACTS about Central Basin that clarify the misinformation on the Bill:

Central Basin has a General Manager

Central Basin is delivering clean and affordable water via the MWD as it always has

Central Basin has a General Counsel

Central Basin is fiscally solvent and has an (8 million in reserves and approx. and \$100 million in assets)

Again, we urge you to Pull this bill Immediately,

Best Regards,

Indivisible California Green Team

Indivisible Marin

Rooted in Resistance

Normal Heights Indivisible

Indivisible Peninsula/CA 14

Progressive Democrats of SM Mountains

350 South Bay Los Angeles

Feminists in Action (Indivisible)

SoCal 350

Jennifer Tanner

Susan Morgan

Ruth Richardson

Mala Wingard

Sophia Mahoney-Rohrl

Dorothy Reik

Sherry Lear

Jessica Craven

Jack Eidt

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/17/2020 01:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0002-S106

Comments for Public Posting: Attachment



RE: OPPOSE SB625

May 30, 2020

Dear Community

Central Basin is a community of 2 million people who are 70% Latino, 54% disadvantaged communities and have wells that are contaminated. As leaders in water conservation, education, water delivery throughout our service we have a mission to oversee the pumping of the basin and to be good stewards of the environment.

The following is list is just a few of our recent accomplishments within our service area:

1. CENTRAL BASIN RELEASED ITS COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) an independent auditor, issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion with no findings on the District's financial statements;
2. Central Basin earned the Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation;
3. Clean & Affordable Water: Central Basin MWD's Water Quality and Supply Remain Unaffected by The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19);
4. Central Basin Achieves Recognition for Excellence in Financial Reporting;
5. Central Basin Residents and Businesses Receive Over \$9.2 Million in Conservation Rebates;

Central Basin is fiscally solvent and financially stable. Central Basin has about 100 million in assets. Central Basin has met all its financial obligations. Central Basin adopted a long-term financial plan with a 10-million-dollar budget and has made significant cuts in its budget to keep pace with California's efforts to conserve water.

Senate Bill 625 does not take my communities needs into account. It serves no purpose except to dissolve a democratic process that we as Americans consider sacred. SB625 is unconstitutional in eliminating the process of transparency and eliminating 5 public officials who were voted in by the constituents of the district. All of this for the sake of a group of 10 Politicos of Color who do not care about my constituents. Their need to set a precedent of stripping us from our voting rights is very horrific and Trumpian. Their actions on paper have shown them to be racist and classist. Their 700's show them to be in the pockets of private water companies and they no longer serve as examples of POC who serve the people.

Senate Bill 625 makes many misrepresentations. The bill states that Central Basin Municipal Water District does not have a General Manager, General Counsel nor a Board President. When in fact a duly and lawfully appointed Interim General Manager and General Counsel were voted on and appointed on February 24, 2020.

The Board President was properly elected by a majority of the Board. Central Basin's administrative code section 2.2, "...then position of President shall be filled by the most senior

member of the Board on a rotation process.” The Board President was voted on in open session on January 30, 2020. The vote was 4-3. Unfortunately, the appointed board members who represent the private water companies did not agree to this duly elected chair who represents the people’s vote. Moreover, purveyors appointed to the board at the discretion of Assembly member Garcia are refusing to abide by the Board’s policy.

With regards to what constitutes a majority, in Central Basin’s administrative code section 2.4, states that should the code be in conflict that Brown Act will supersede. Central Basin has been lawfully following the Brown Act. Assembly member Garcia’s appointed officials do not represent the constituents of the district who voted for the 5 elected officials on the board. The 3 appointed members of the board hold a position on our Board disregard our mission of serving the public. Their conflicts as appointed directors have sustained a dysfunction that that has been openly hostile, assaultive, destructive and dangerous to our existence as a public agency.

In addition, for the Legislature to propose a bill to dissolve the elected Board while there is pending litigation to address these issues, the bill is highly unnecessary and with the current COVID 19 pandemic a diversion of the Committee’s time and efforts. The agenda of the author/coauthors should be sanctioned and viewed as a terrorist act upon my community of color. This is a classist and racist move to inflict harm against the most vulnerable and prevent the process of the human right to water.

Respectfully,

Martha Camacho Rodriguez

Central Basin Municipal Water District Director Div.1