

**Amanda Nervig's speech to the State Water Board 6/28/17
regarding the evaluation of program performance & where the funds can
come from**

Good evening. My name is Amanda Nervig. I am a designer, living in West Oakland. I am speaking to you today as a volunteer advocate with the Service Workers Project for Affordable Water and Utilities, or SWPAWU. I am speaking to what the State Water Board must do to evaluate your program performance to implement AB 401.

The California State Constitution, Article 1, Section 1, states, "All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy."

AB 685 and 401 state that "Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water ..."

There are now five men who own as much wealth as the poorest half of the entire world – one of these men lives right here in the Bay Area. Our Federal Government had enough money to bomb the entire water systems in Iraq and Afghanistan and then rebuild them entirely to the tune of billions of dollars. 26 corporations including Wells Fargo, PG&E, General Electric and Boeing paid no federal income taxes from 2008 – 2012. Wells Fargo's subsidy was over \$21 billion!

In the urgent times we live in, we call on the Water Resources and Control Board to lead the way organizing all municipalities in California and even the country in demanding that appropriate state and federal funds be used to maintain utilities districts, cover needed maintenance and **ensure low-income customers can maintain water service!**

If you don't have sufficient funds, seek out additional sources of funds from the state to ensure that water is truly a right to every human being. The state is projecting \$48 billion in corporate tax breaks in their new budget. They have no shortage of funds. *You can* go to the federal government if need be.

In the wake of Governor Brown's visit to China, Chinese leadership met with state officials last weekend in San Francisco to extend their "Belt and Road" program to aid California's infrastructure.

In compliance with international and state law, the best way to evaluate the performance of your program is achieving zero water shut-offs across the state. Issue a permanent moratorium on any and all water shut offs for residents living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Don't wait until 2018. Implement a moratorium now, the sooner the less death and devastation.