

## Legislative Update: Governor Signs SB 998, Vetoes AB 2050 by Damon Micalizzi



One of Governor Brown's final bill signings was SB 998 (Dodd), a bill that will render water utilities unable to turn off customers' water if they do not pay their bill. This legislation, opposed by the majority of the water community, will likely result in higher water rates as districts try to mitigate reduced revenues from those who are regularly delinquent on their water bill. This one-size-fits-all statewide program also creates a cap on reconnection fees that may not cover the actual cost of these physical reconnections, triggering Prop. 218

concerns for some public water agencies.

Meanwhile, AB 2050 - the Small System Water Authority Act of 2018 by Assemblymember Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) - was vetoed by the Governor. The MWDOC Board supported this alternative to the water tax.