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September 22, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Office of the Governor  
State Capital Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916-558-3160

**RE: Support AB 1242 (Ruskin-Jones)**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We the undersigned are Catholic priests, members of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a Roman Catholic religious order, and we also represent large parish communities in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. We attend to an estimated 12,000 families in our parishes.

We write on behalf of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as well as on behalf of the parishes of Mary Immaculate in Pacoima, CA, and Santa Rosa and Saint Ferdinand, both in San Fernando, CA.

**We urge you to support AB 1242, the Human Right to Water Act of 2009.** This is a matter of justice for those Californians who are among the poor and marginal who often do not have access to safe and affordable water for drinking, bathing and cleaning.

We believe that access to safe, affordable and clean water is a human right, and no one should be denied this right because of being poor.

Recently Pope Benedict XVI wrote in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*:

*The right to food, like the right to water, has an important place within the pursuit of other rights, beginning with the fundamental right to life. It is therefore necessary to cultivate a public conscience that considers food and access to water as universal rights of all human beings, without distinction or discrimination[65].*

Existing law (Public Utilities Code Section 739.8) establishes access in principle, but

does not adequately ensure such access as a human right and as policy of the State of California. Consequently, millions of Californians are left without a secure and safe supply of this resource necessary for life. Other larger players profit from the water business, while others fall through the cracks and are kept away from the water they need.

We urge you to support and sign AB 1242 in order to guarantee that this foundational human right of access to safe, affordable and clean water becomes a reality. Thank you for supporting this just cause.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Lasseigne, OMI  
Pastor, Mary Immaculate Parish, Pacoima, CA

Rev. Steve Conserva, OMI  
Pastor, St. Ferdinand Church, San Fernando, CA

Rev. Stan Zowada, OMI  
Pastor Santa Rosa Church, San Fernando, CA

Rev. William Antone, OMI  
Councilor, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate