

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 14, 2003

CITIZENS RALLY TO PROTEST COUNCIL PRIVATIZATION VOTE

Next Wednesday, as members of the Stockton City Council make their way up City Hall steps to their second-floor chambers to cast their vote on the fate of privatization of the City's water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, they will be met with representatives from throughout the community who oppose the pending decision.

A press conference and rally is planned on the steps of City Hall at 4:30 p.m. next Wednesday just prior to the Special Meeting where the City Council will cast the final vote on whether to award a \$600 million contract to the for-profit multi-national corporation, OMI-Thames Water.

The special meeting of the City Council is set to take place less than two weeks before a March 4 special election spear-headed by the Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton (CCCoS) with more than 18,000 signatures on an initiative petition last summer.

"We've asked supporters to gather on the City Hall steps just before the meeting, so the Council can see for itself, that the citizens want to vote on our future of the water utility" said Sylvia Kothe, chairperson of the CCCoS. "This pending 20-year contract with OMI-Thames Water will have a tremendous impact on the future of our community. We believe this is a decision that should be made by the citizens, not the City Council."

Several notable figures will join the rally to voice their support to the CCCoS will include:

- two former Mayors – Barbara Fass and Joan Darrah;
- former Council Member Ann Johnston;
- Morris Allen, retired Director of the Municipal Utilities Dept.;
- representatives for Operating Engineers Local #3 – Tom Aja, District Representative and Dean Cofer, Assistant Director Employee Division;
- a representative from B&C Management Associate;
- Patrick Ikeda and Angel Picon, San Joaquin Valley Chapter of Service Employees International Union Local 790.

The community is encouraged to join the press conference and rally. For more information on the event and other CCCoS activities, contact Sylvia Kothe at 464-1004.