

## Guiding Questions for Private Water Services Panel

1. Do you believe that either private or public water services provision is inherently superior? If so, why? If not, what does success in water services depend on?

### Economics

2. What are the possible economic gains or losses to customers from private sector participation in water services? Have those gains or losses been achieved in Stockton or other cities? Please provide specific examples.
3. Do water services differ from other “natural monopolies?” If not, aren’t regulated private utilities an appropriate delivery mechanism? Or do you oppose regulated private utilities when a natural monopoly is involved?
4. What impacts, if any, do competition and the profit motive create in private sector participation in water services?

### Environmental Protection

5. Can existing laws, including the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and their state counterparts, as well as the terms of the service contract adequately protect the environment?

### Democracy and Consumer Protection

6. Should a city council have the authority to enter into water service contracts without direct community approval?
7. Can existing laws and the terms of the services contract adequately protect customers from poor water quality, inadequate service, etc.?
8. Can democratic governance alone (e.g., an elected City Council or Board of Directors) provide adequate protection for customers in purely public water systems?

### Legal Analysis

9. Do you see the Superior Court’s rescission of the OMI-Thames/City of Stockton water services contract as a success or failure, or both? In what ways?
10. Was Judge McNatt’s decision a straightforward application of CEQA? If not, what do believe it was?