### **Identifying the Challenges**

March 15, 2018

Symposium on Making Safe, Clean, Affordable and Accessible Water a Reality

Katie Leo Porter, PE, ENV SP

Staff Engineer, California Urban Water Agencies

# California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) Serve Over Two-thirds of California's Population



#### Retail/Wholesale Agencies

- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- City of San Diego
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)

### Wholesale Agencies

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
- San Diego
   County Water
   Authority
   (SDCWA)
- Zone 7 Water Agency

CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

### Affordability Affects 21% of CUWA's Population

Income Bracket	Total Population	Total % Population
Less than \$10,000	1,583,872	6.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,364,161	5.3%
\$14,999 to \$24,999	2,506,587	9.7%
Total	5,454,619	21.0%

California
Population
Not Served
by CUWA

California
Population
Served by
CUWA

More than 5.5 million people served by CUWA struggle with affordability

CUWA member agencies serve a majority of California's low-income households.

Based on 2013 census

## Various Strategies are Currently Being Utilized to Assist Low-income Customers

Discounted Water Charges

Base Tier Rates / Lifeline Rates

Customer Conservation Assistance

**Partnerships** 

Education

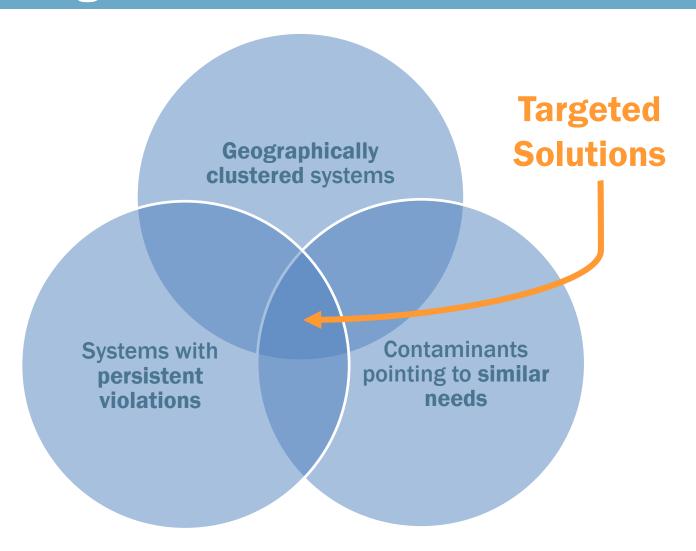
Payment Plans

#### % Annual Household Income Spent on Water Bills

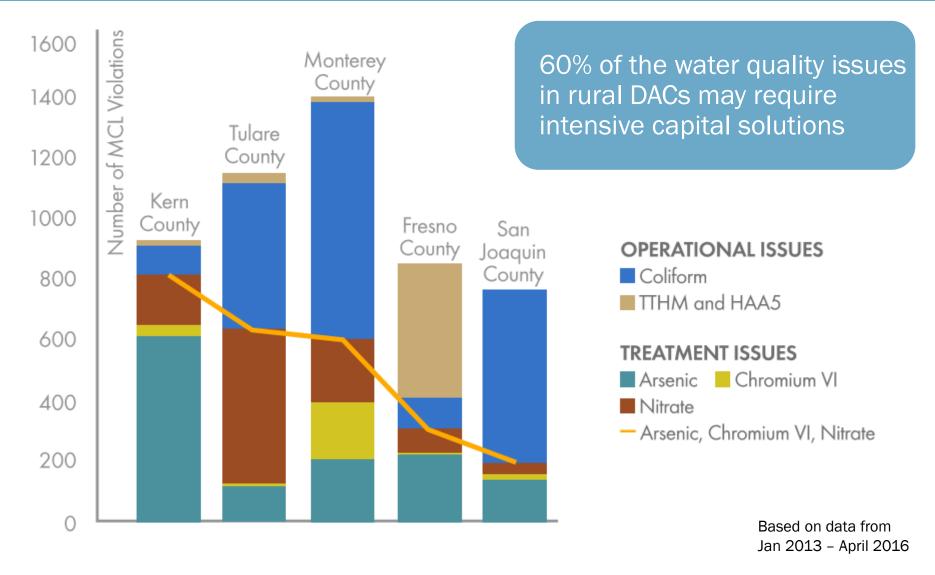
Income Bracket	Population-Weighted Average
Less than \$10,000	7.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.7%
\$14,999 to \$24,999	2.8%
Total	4.5%

Based on 2013 census

# **Accelerate Progress Towards Accessibility Through Targeted Solutions**

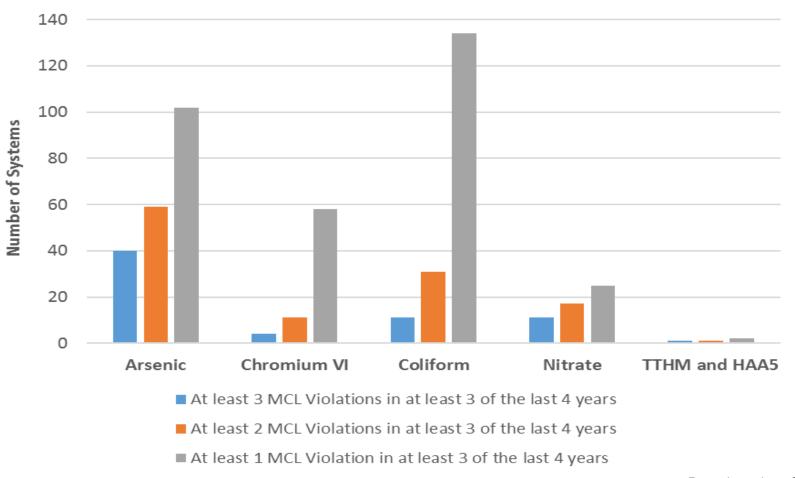


### Refine the Number of Affected Systems Needing Assistance



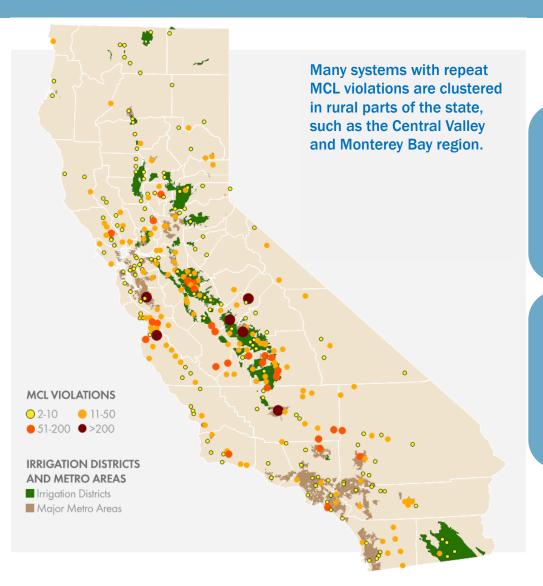
CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

## **Identify Persistent Violations to Focus On Systems Most in Need of Assistance**



Based on data from Jan 2013 - April 2016

#### **Prevent Growth of the Problem**



Prohibit commercial/
residential development in
areas without access to
sufficient water infrastructure
or supplies of adequate quality

Connect nearby water purveyors that are willing to extend sustainable resources to nearby DACs

Based on data from Jan 2013 - April 2016

#### **Pilot Scalable Solutions**

### Focus on Targeted Solutions

- Geographically clustered
- Persistent Violations
- Similar Needs

# Groundtruth Root Causes / Barriers to Sustainability

- Technical
- Managerial
- Financial

### Pilot to Refine Effective Solutions

- Individual Solutions
- Consolidated
   Solutions
- Mentoring Relationships

Katie Porter
CUWA Staff Engineer
kporter1@brwncald.com
213.271.2239

Cindy Paulson
CUWA Executive Director
cpaulson@brwncald.com
925.210.2477

www.cuwa.org