

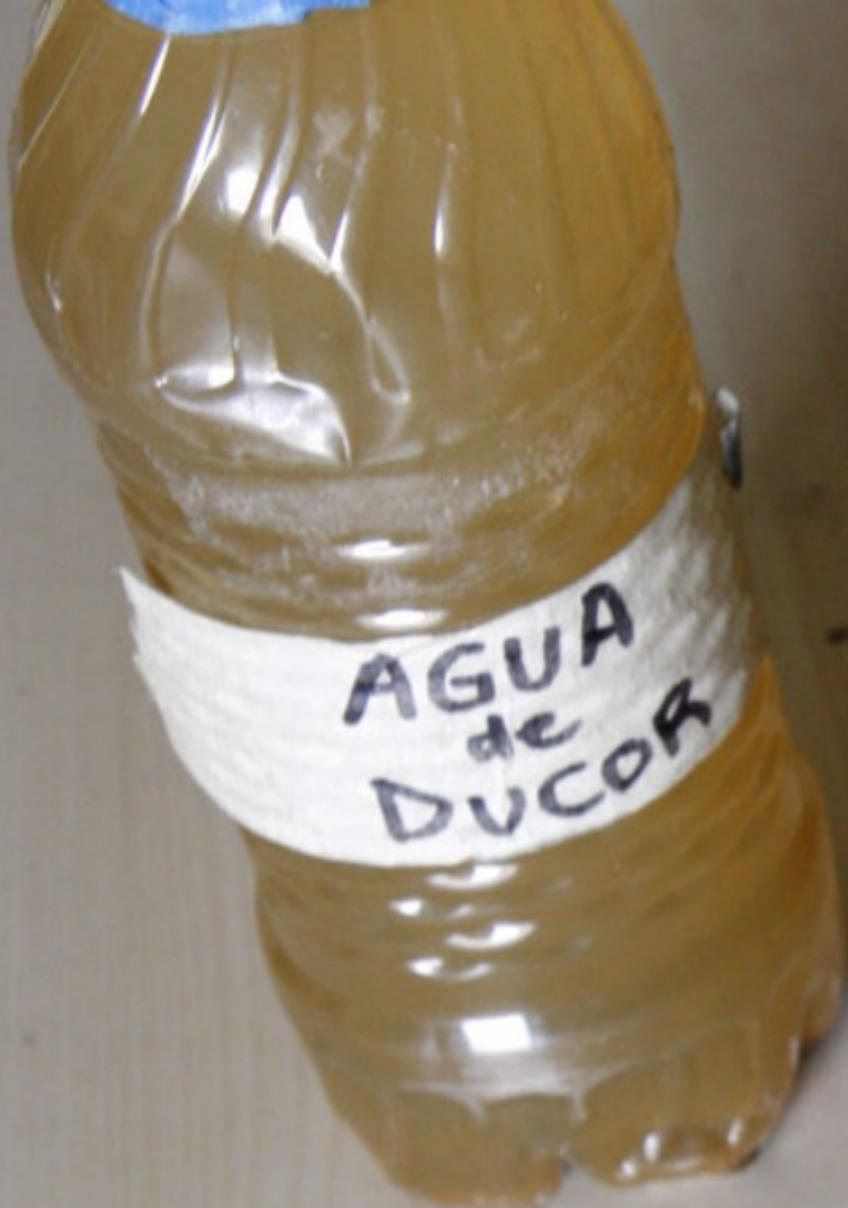


A Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund for California

Laurel Firestone



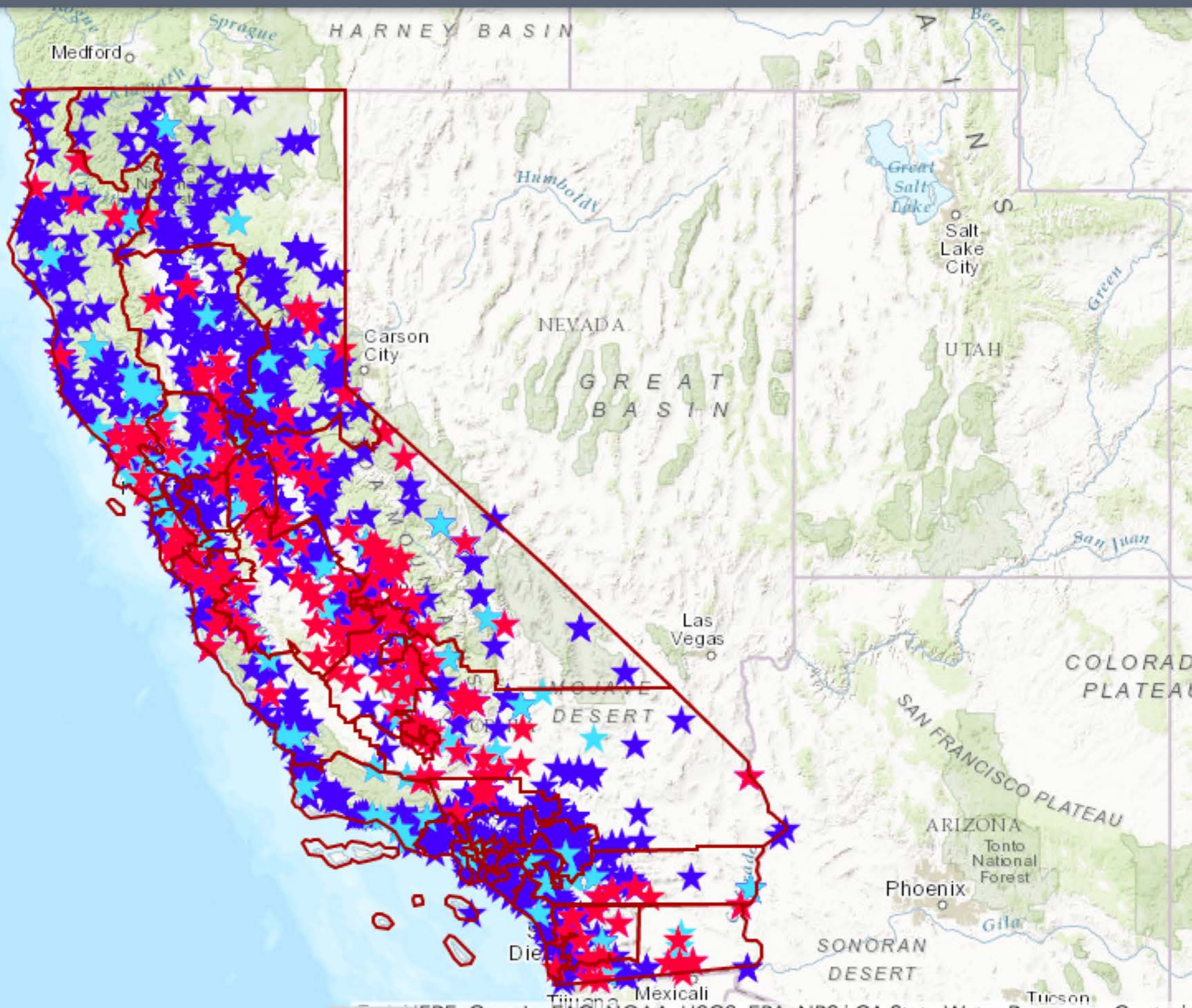
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EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA



More than 300 communities and schools lack access to safe drinking water in CA

SWRCB





Arsenic and nitrate drinking water contamination disproportionately impacts low-income and Latino communities

Balazs et al. 2011



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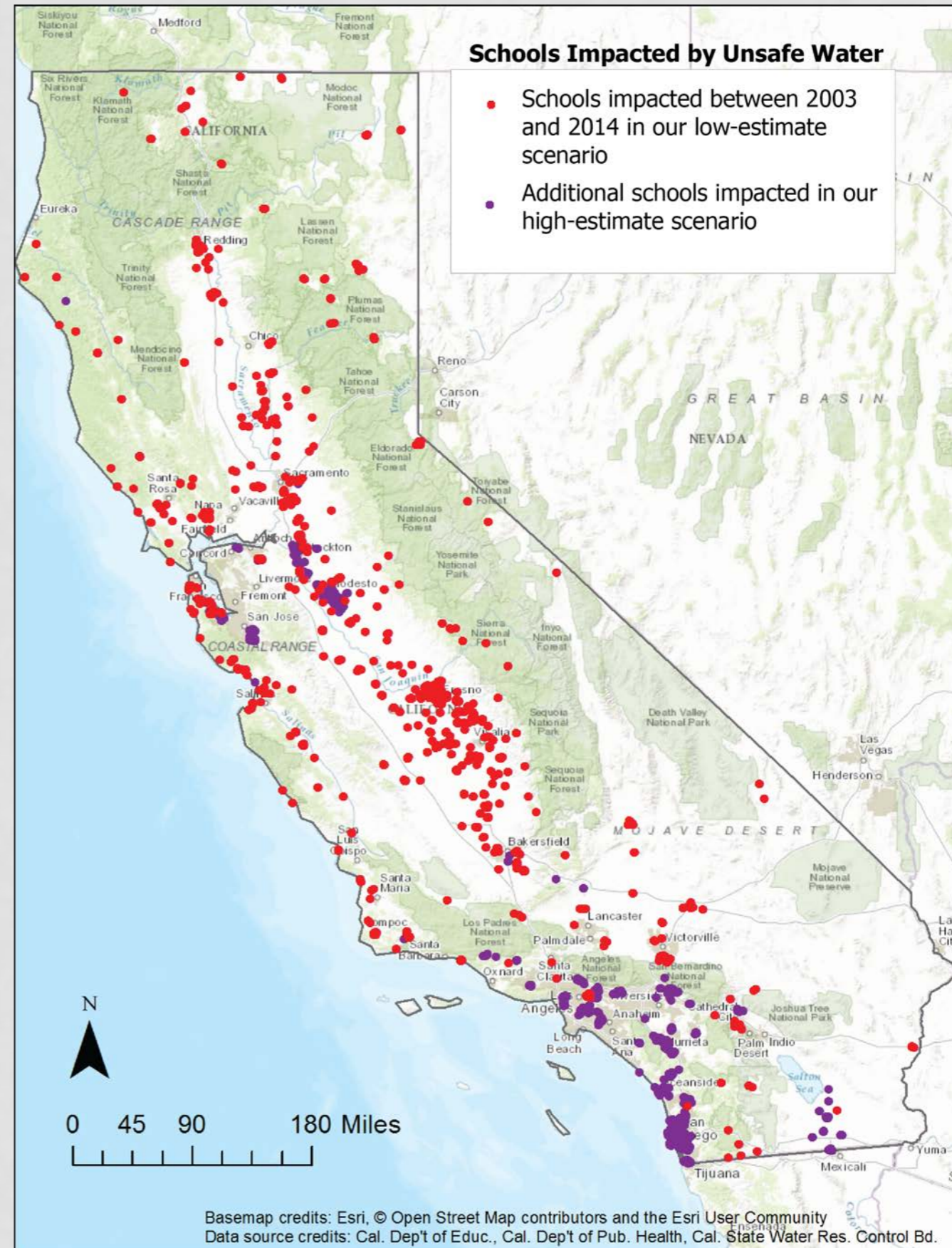
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
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Some residents
spend up to 10%
of their
household
income on
drinking water.

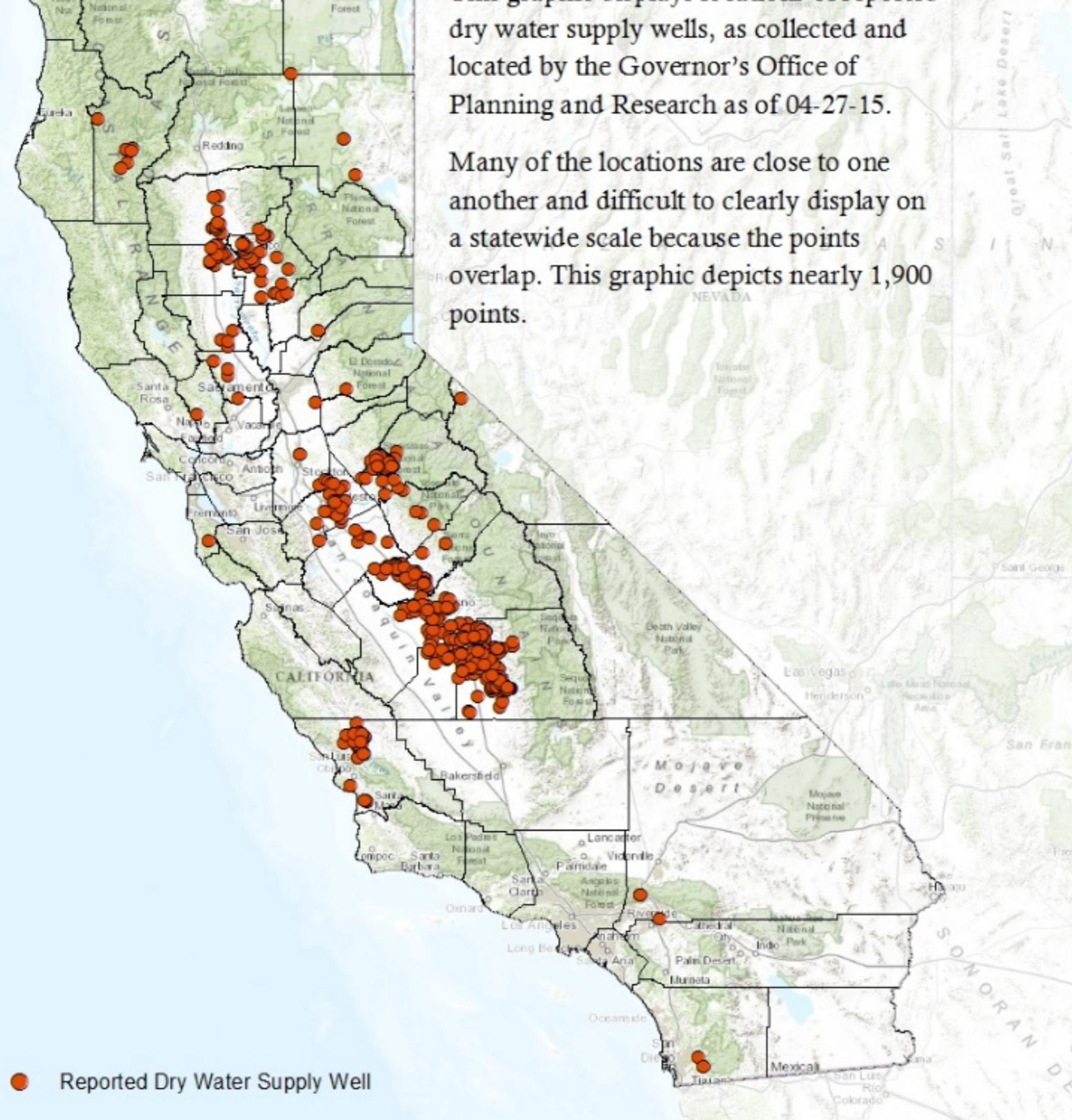
UNSAFE WATER IN SCHOOLS

- 979 - 1,688 schools may have been impacted by unsafe drinking water between 2003 and 2014.
- As many as 1 in 4 schools in the Central Valley have been impacted by unsafe water



dry water supply wells, as collected and located by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research as of 04-27-15.

Many of the locations are close to one another and difficult to clearly display on a statewide scale because the points overlap. This graphic depicts nearly 1,900 points.



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, IPC, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community



→ Almost **12,000** Californians have run out of water during the drought.

State of California Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System

East Porterville, CA

2015-16 CA spent \$148 million in
emergency drinking water funding in Tulare
County alone



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Advancing community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy

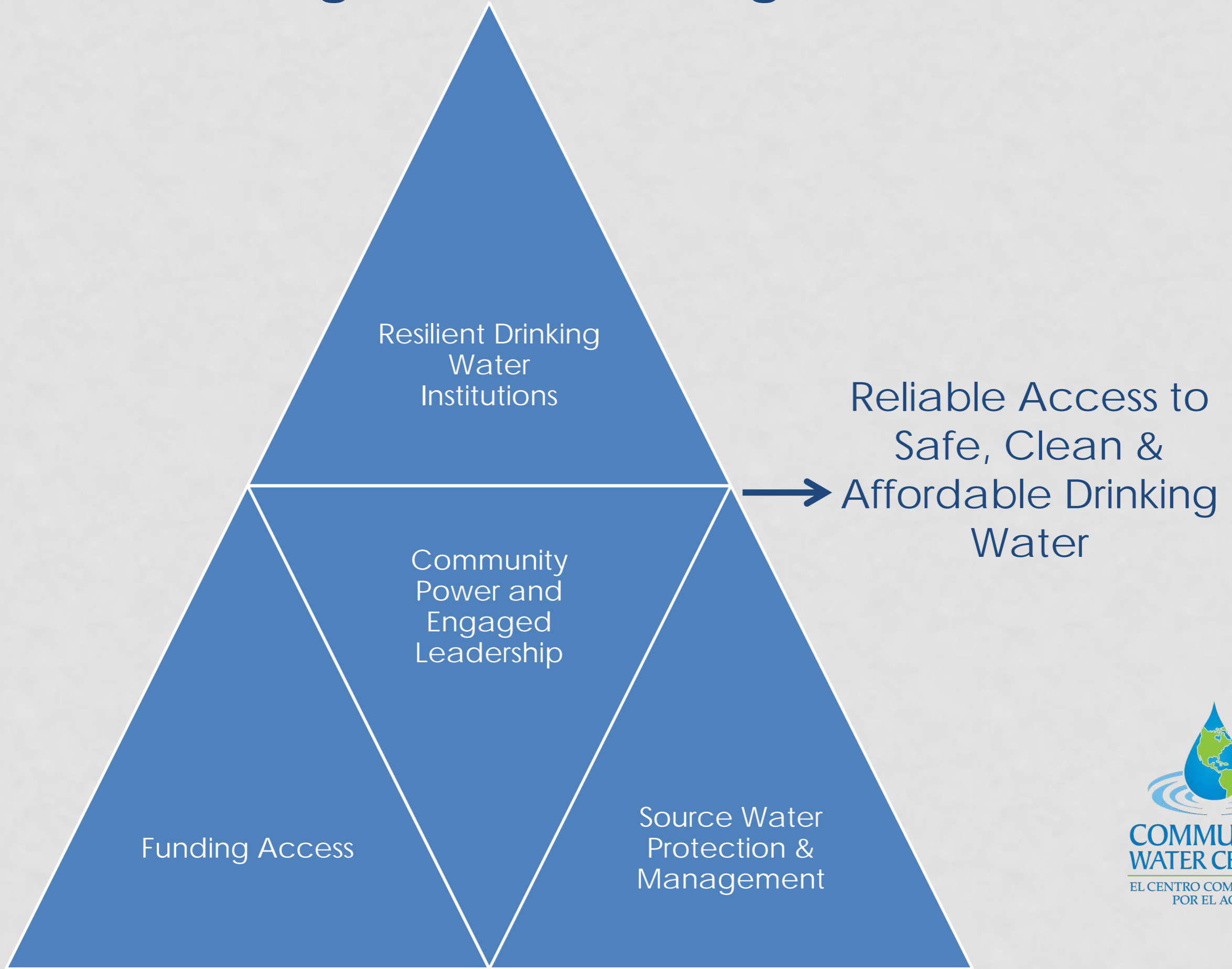


2012 Human Right to Water Act

- “Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”



Securing the Human Right to Water



New Policy Tools

- Human Right to Water
- Proposition 1 Water Bond
- Office of Sustainable Water Solutions
- New Consolidation Powers
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Dairies & Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs
- School testing and funding programs

Remaining Funding Barriers / Gaps

- Communities unable to afford to provide reliable access to safe drinking water
 - O&M
 - capital, planning, technical assistance
 - emergency replacement water
 - Ineligible uses of existing funding sources (private wells, state smalls, laterals, etc.)
- Estimated need \$140M annually

CASE STUDY: LANARE

Solutions moving forward

- SB623: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
 - Leverage sources of capital \$
 - Build on Technical Assistance at SWRCB
 - Cover funding gaps (esp. O&M)
- Implement Complementary Programs / Powers
 - Promote more resilient institutions
 - Protect source water
 - Improve information access (private wells, lead in schools, etc.)
 - Support Ratepayer Affordability – support local LIRA Program(s)

SB623: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Broad Eligibility in order to:

- Fill gaps for those that need it most
- Secure long-term sustainability and cost effectiveness of drinking water services and infrastructure

Prioritizes:

- Disadvantaged communities and low-income domestic well users that
 - Consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water
 - Must charge rates that are above an adopted affordability threshold in order to provide safe water
- Non-capital costs that can't be covered by other sources of \$

Transparency:

- Annual needs assessment
- Fund implementation plan developed and adopted in consultation with a broad multidisciplinary stakeholder group
- Regular public review and assessment of the Fund

SB623: Sustained funding shall come from:

- Increase to the existing fertilizer mill fees and fees on dairy producers to address nitrate impacts
 - CDFA also to establish a new fee for other non-dairy CAFOs
 - Estimated to raise \$30M annually for 15 years and \$10M annually after that
- New safe drinking water fee assessed monthly on drinking water bills
 - The monthly safe drinking water fee is capped at a maximum of \$.95 cents for most water users
 - Exemption from the fee for low-income households (under 200% of the federal poverty level)

Combined fees will raise an estimated total of \$140 million annually for the first two years, and thereafter can be kept consistent or reduced by the State Water Board based on the annual need assessment

Fees CANNOT be adjusted to exceed the caps identified in statute.

SB 623: Developing better data and assistance

- Collect and analyze existing local data on private wells and state small systems
- Identify high risk areas
- Support outreach and private well testing for low-income households and state small systems



Widespread Support

- More than 100 diverse organizations support SB 623, including agriculture, EJ, environmental groups, public health, cities, water districts, counties, labor, etc.
- Polling shows Californians want government action to address this issue and vast majority of Californians would support a small monthly fee of \$1 to help solve California's drinking water problems, even if it is outside of their own system or region.



THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

Community Water Center: Because clean water is a right, not a privilege.



Join the movement and
find out more online!

CommunityWaterCenter.org

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