



COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

***The Human Right To Water –  
November 2020 Water Commission  
Dialogue***

**Jonathan Nelson, Policy Director**



# Our Vision

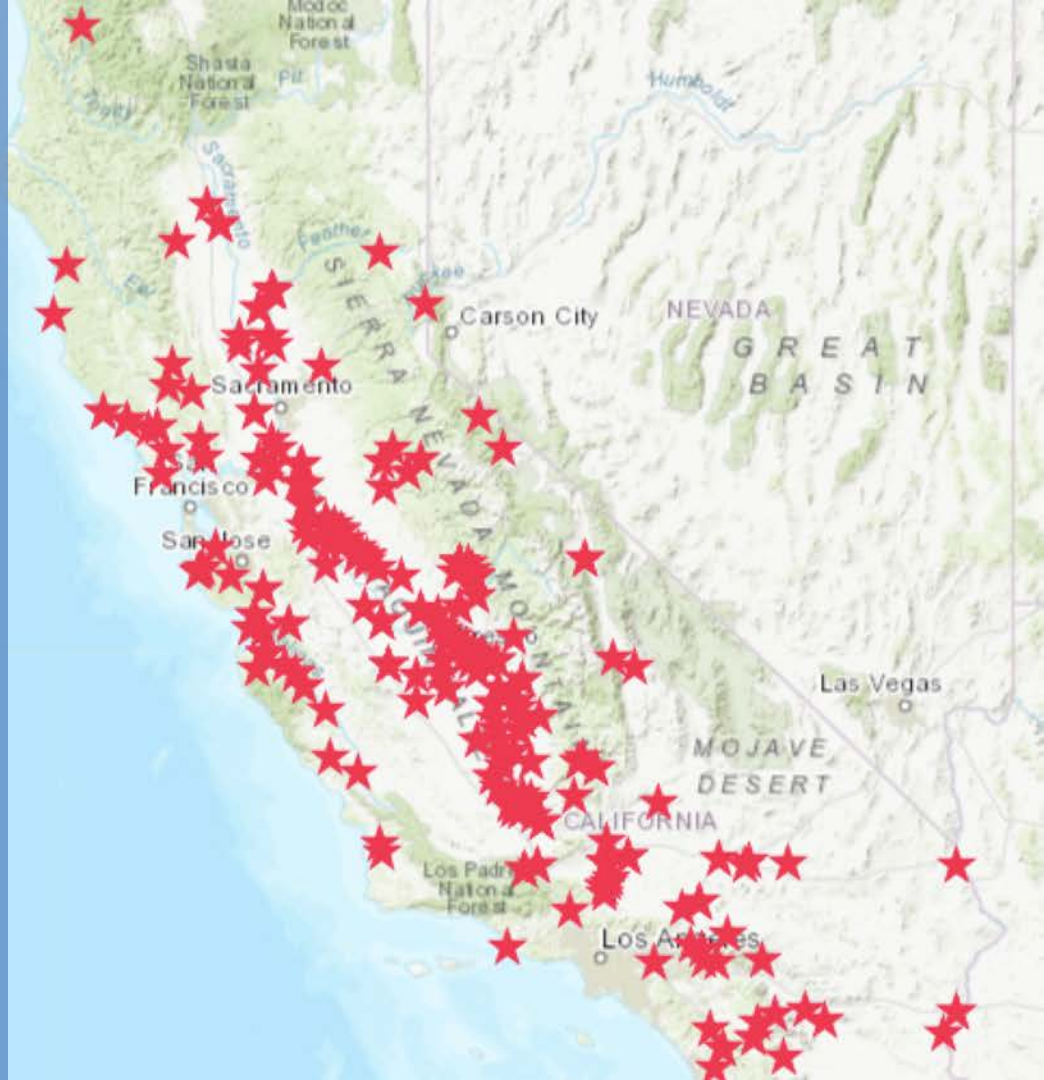
Ensure that ALL Californians have  
access to safe, clean and  
affordable drinking water

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





**1 million  
Californians  
impacted by  
unsafe  
drinking water  
each year!**







June 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
 Speaker of the House  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 H-232, U.S. Capitol  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
 Minority Leader  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 H-204, U.S. Capitol  
 Washington, D.C. 20515



WESTERNUNITEDDAIRIES



# Key Points

- Consideration of the Human Right to Water should be at the forefront of project development, not an aside
- Communities and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) must be given fair decision-making power in projects
- The state must fund community capacity-building efforts, given historic disinvestment and disproportionate impacts





COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

*The Human Right to Water*

- Framework for dialogue that recognizes historical and current disproportionate impacts
- Offers vision for where California should be headed — universal access to safe and affordable drinking water
- Implementation of the Human Right to Water Law (AB 685, Eng) is a work in progress – and more needs to be done



# COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

---

## EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

### *The Human Right to Water and Project Proposals/Applications*

- Will this have a negative impact on community access to drinking water? Will it have a positive impact?
- Were communities and CBOs consulted? Were they given adequate resources and capacity-building to meaningfully engage?
- Did communities and CBOs have meaningful decision-making power in the decision(s) made?



# COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

## *The Human Right to Water and Climate Change*

- Climate change will lead to more extreme droughts that disproportionately hurt small rural communities and low-income households in the Central Valley
- Poor implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will result in over 120,000 Californians losing access to drinking water and will undermine Governor Newsom's vision for safe drinking water for all



# COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

## *Incorporating Communities/CBOs in Water Projects*

- The ability for communities and community-based organizations to meaningfully engage is a function of investment in community capacity-building efforts
- It's not enough to "engage" communities and community-based organizations -- we must also give community voices a fair and equal amount of decision-making power

# Closing

- Consideration of the Human Right to Water should be at the forefront of project development, not an aside
- Communities and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) must be given fair decision-making power in projects
- The state must fund community capacity-building efforts, given historic disinvestment and disproportionate impacts



**Because clean  
water is a right,  
not a privilege!**

**[communitywatercenter.org](http://communitywatercenter.org)**

**Jonathan.Nelson@  
[communitywatercenter.org](http://communitywatercenter.org)**

