

## [Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund](#)

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### **More Urgency for Legislature to Pass Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund After New Report Finds Lead-Contaminated Water in More than 400 California Schools**

Sacramento, CA -- A new report released today from CALPIRG Education Fund found “pervasive lead contamination” in school drinking water in cities across California, emphasizing the urgency for California’s legislature to pass the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. Governor Newsom’s January budget, SB 200 (Monning) and AB 217 (E. Garcia) each provide ongoing funding needed to deliver safe water to California children and families through a small fee on water users, exempting payers with low incomes.

“This alarming new report on the health risks threatening children right in their own schools is even more evidence that California must act now to deliver safe water throughout the state through the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund,” said Mike Claiborne with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. “Pediatricians, school officials, parents, teachers and students themselves are joining our call to action – we can’t wait any longer to deliver on the promise of safe and affordable drinking water for kids and for all Californians.”

The CALPIRG report, [Get The Lead Out](#), gave California a grade of “C+” on protecting California’s school children from toxic lead in school drinking fountains and cafeteria taps. At a Los Angeles event today, the American Academy of Pediatrics, California State PTA, and school officials all called for California to take action to keep kids’ drinking water safe. Their call comes as momentum is building in both houses of the legislature for a fee to achieve Safe Water for All Californians.

CalPIRG’s [new interactive map](#) of school lead testing results shows children face threats from contaminated water across California, a situation that requires a statewide approach to drinking water safety.

Statewide, California’s safe drinking water crisis affects one million Californians each year. Approximately 300 public water systems in California are out of compliance with drinking water standards. California’s drinking water crisis disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color and can be found in every corner of the state.

For these reasons, hundreds of community organizations support recent legislative proposals to provide ongoing, sustainable funding to repair and maintain the water infrastructure needed to deliver safe water across the state.

Under Newsom’s proposal, water users would pay less than a dollar per month to fix the statewide public health crisis of contaminated tap water which causes a range of health issues from cancer and birth defects to heart disease and diabetes. Two-thirds of voters said they would support this approach to provide safe water for all.

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