

**Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Coalition**

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**Governor Affirms Commitment to Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in May  
Revise**

Communities Impacted by Toxic Taps Joined by Environmental Justice Advocates in  
Calling on Legislature to Pass Fee to Protect Human Right to Water for all California  
Communities

Sacramento, CA- The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Coalition released the following statement from Jonathan Nelson, Policy Director at Community Water Center, in response to Governor Newsom's May budget revise:

“Communities living with the health-threatening consequences of contaminated drinking water are grateful for Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership and clear call for action to protect the human right to safe, affordable drinking water for all. The May Revise affirms the commitment Governor Newsom made in January to stand by communities like Monterey Park Tract, the community he visited just after his January Budget release, where he declared it ‘a disgrace that in a state as wealthy and resourceful as ours that a million-plus people don't have access to safe, clean drinking water.’”

Since the Governor released his January budget, the need for action to fix toxic taps has only become more urgent. A widely-reported study offers new evidence linking arsenic and other contaminants in Californians' drinking water to cancer and other serious diseases. Among the school districts reporting on lead contamination, one-third of school districts had a school with lead levels at more than 5 parts per billion (ppb) - five times the level that should require action, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund outlined in the Governor's January budget proposal and reinforced in the May revise provides the sustainable source of funding necessary to invest in new infrastructure, replace old infrastructure, provide emergency water supplies, support expensive water treatment and guarantee every Californian the human right to water.

“The Legislature must join Governor Newsom to protect communities of color and low- income Californians who are disproportionately impacted by unsafe drinking water. When Governor Newsom visited people who don't trust and can't use their water, he declared ‘If we fall short this year, that's on us – and that's a disgrace.’ We look forward to working with the Governor and legislators to ensure California can be proud we fulfilled the commitment to deliver safe, affordable drinking water to all.”

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