

Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Coalition

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR TODAY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019 @ 12 PM, STATE CAPITOL NORTH STEPS

Impacted Communities Launch Water Strike To Call Attention to California's Ongoing Safe Water Crisis In Run-up to June 15 Budget Deadline

Californians descend on Sacramento to declare "I Am One of the Million" without safe drinking water and to push for a sustainable, long-term safe water solution

Sacramento, CA - With a state budget required to be passed by the Legislature by June 15, California residents impacted by unsafe water will travel to the Capitol on Wednesday to urgently call for a long-term, sustainable Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.

These impacted residents will launch a Water Strike where they will symbolically forgo safe water for an hour in solidarity with the one million Californians who lack safe water every day, to draw attention to this unjust public health crisis and push for a safe water solution by June 15. This Water Strike will be continued next week in the run-up to the June 15 budget deadline. Impacted residents will also conduct a vigil and read off the names of the more than 300 communities that lack safe water.

Community members, local leaders, and environmental justice advocates will urge the "Big 3" to secure a sustainable funding source by June 15 that provides the greatest level of certainty possible for universal, permanent access to safe water, and that is protected from a future economic downturn. California must put such a solution in place this month, because the one million Californians without safe water don't deserve to wait any longer. Many have lived their entire lives without access to clean water.

WHO: Dozens of community residents impacted by unsafe water in California, community water advocates, local leaders

WHAT: Launch "Water Strike" to draw attention to the one million Californians living without safe, affordable drinking water. Impacted Californians will share their stories and speakers will read the names of approximately 300 California water systems currently in violation of federal safety standards.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 5
12:00 noon

WHERE: State Capitol, North Steps

VISUALS: Large banner, signs naming 30 CA water systems out of compliance with safety standards, and an unsafe water station with contaminated water from impacted communities throughout the state.

NOTE: Spanish speakers available.

BACKGROUND:

More than one million Californians and hundreds of communities are impacted by unsafe drinking water every year. Some water systems have been unable to provide safe drinking water for multiple years or even over a decade. Additionally, nearly 2 million Californians utilize domestic wells and/or state small water systems that are not eligible for most assistance programs, leaving them particularly vulnerable to unsafe drinking water. According to state data, over 300 public water systems across California are in violation of federal or state drinking water standards.

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