

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

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**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, JUNE 10 @ 12 PM STATE CAPITOL NORTH STEPS  
AND  
TUESDAY, JUNE 11 @ 12 PM STATE CAPITOL SOUTH STEPS**

**Legendary Civil Rights Leader Dolores Huerta Joins Impacted Communities  
For Water Strike;  
Californians Living without Safe Water Ramp Up Urgent Call for Action on California's  
Ongoing Safe Water Crisis Ahead of June 15 Budget Deadline**

Sacramento, CA - With the state budget deadline this week, legendary civil rights leader Dolores Huerta will join Californians living without safe drinking water for a "Water Strike," calling attention to the urgent public health crisis of contaminated drinking water in communities across California. Huerta, impacted residents, and environmental justice advocates are calling for the "Big 3" to secure a long-term, sustainable Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund by June 15.

The Water Strike was launched last week at the Capitol, with impacted residents forgoing safe water for one hour to represent the one million Californians who lack access to safe water in their homes, schools, and communities. They will demonstrate all that they are unable to do without safe water -- including brushing their teeth, cooking, making baby formula and drinking water from their taps.

The Water Strike, which will continue Tuesday, is a powerful call to action that emphasizes this unjust public health crisis and pushes for a safe water solution by June 15th. Impacted residents will also conduct a vigil and read off the names of the more than 300 communities that lack safe water. In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to pass the Human Right to Water and each day that goes by is another day we don't uphold that right.

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:** Dolores Huerta (**Monday**), Dozens of community residents impacted by unsafe water in California, community water advocates, local leaders

**WHAT:** "Water Strike" launched last week 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:** Monday, June 10 and Tuesday, June 11  
12:00 noon

**WHERE:** **Monday** State Capitol, North Steps

**Tuesday** State Capitol, South Steps

**VISUALS:** Large banner, signs naming 300 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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