

Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Coalition

For Immediate Release

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With Budget Vote, California One Step Closer to Finally Delivering Safe Drinking Water to All

Impacted Communities Urge Passage of Companion Budget Trailer Bill to Secure Sustainable Funding As Soon As Possible

Sacramento, CA - The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Coalition released the following statement from Phoebe Seaton, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; Jonathan Nelson, Policy Director, Community Water Center; and Jennifer Clary, Water Programs Manager, Clean Water Action upon the passage of the budget bill by the legislature today. The budget and related trailer bill will deliver \$1.4 billion over 11 years in General Fund and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars for safe drinking water.

“Today’s vote, which contains a portion of the safe water budget proposal put forward by the Governor, the Speaker and the Pro Tem, is a historic moment that moves California one step closer to finally bringing relief to the one million Californians who woke up today without safe drinking water. Once the budget and trailer bill that contain the entirety of the safe water budget proposal are signed, many Californians - some of whom have lived their entire lives without safe tap water - will finally be able to envision a day when they can brush their teeth, fill a glass, or make baby formula without fear.

“Impacted communities have been fighting for the human right to safe, affordable drinking water for decades and today’s vote leaves no doubt their message was heard by Governor Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders. We urge swift passage of the related trailer bill so California can begin writing a new chapter in the long journey toward justice for impacted communities.”

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