



Past CA Affordability Research Efforts

Laurel Firestone




COMMUNITY WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

Past Affordability Research


- The Human Costs of Nitrate-Contaminated Drinking Water in the San Joaquin Valley, 2011, Pacific Institute, CWC, CWF, CRLAF Publication
- Assessing Water Affordability: A Pilot Study in Two Regions of California, 2013, CWC, Pacific Institute, & Fresno State Publication

The Human Costs of Nitrate-Contaminated Drinking Water in the San Joaquin Valley

Research Objectives:

- 1. Measures taken by household water users to avoid nitrate-contaminated water, perception of water quality, and the means of obtaining water quality information;
 - 2. Costs to households of water service, purchasing alternative sources of water, and treating water in the home;
 - 3. The costs of existing and proposed measures undertaken by small community water systems to mitigate nitrate contamination;
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Study Conclusions

- Lack of awareness of contamination
 - Exposure to nitrate contaminated water
 - Costly measures to avoid nitrate contaminated water, in addition to flat rates
 - High financial burden to low-income households for water service
 - Lack of Adequate \$ for System Solutions
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Assessing Water Affordability: A Pilot Study in Two Regions of California

Comparing Urban and Rural Systems and Measures of Affordability

Tulare Lake Basin Results

- Measure 1: Water systems with unaffordable rates 9 (17%)
 - Measure 1a: Water systems with unaffordable rates, considering replacement costs 14 (27%)
 - Measure 3a: Households with unaffordable rates 3,933 (29%)
 - Measure 3b: Households with unaffordable rates, considering replacement costs 7,021 (51%)
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Community Water Center: Because clean water is a right, not a privilege.



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