



Current Policy Options to Address Affordability

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COMMUNITY WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

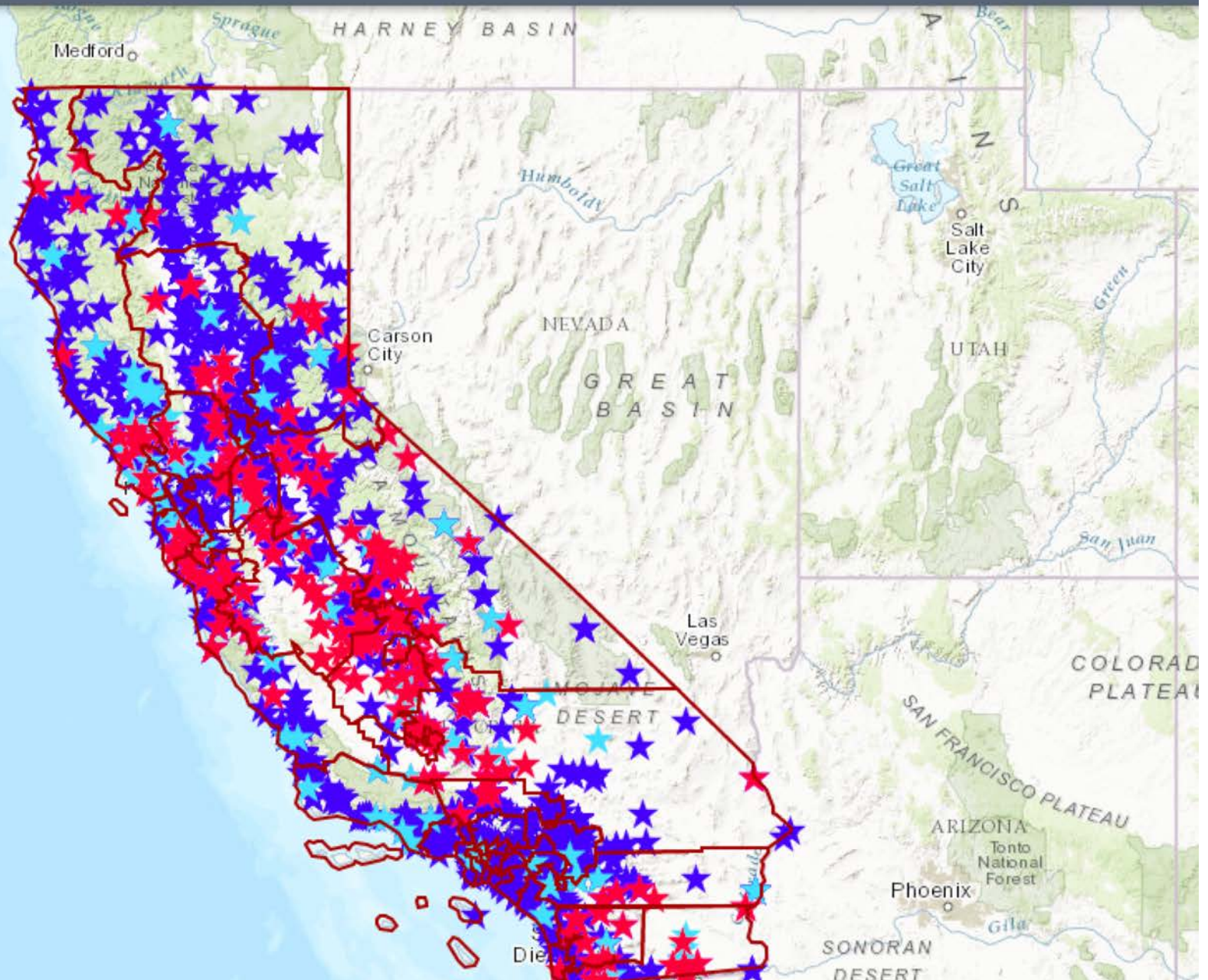
2012 Human Right to Water Act

- “Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”



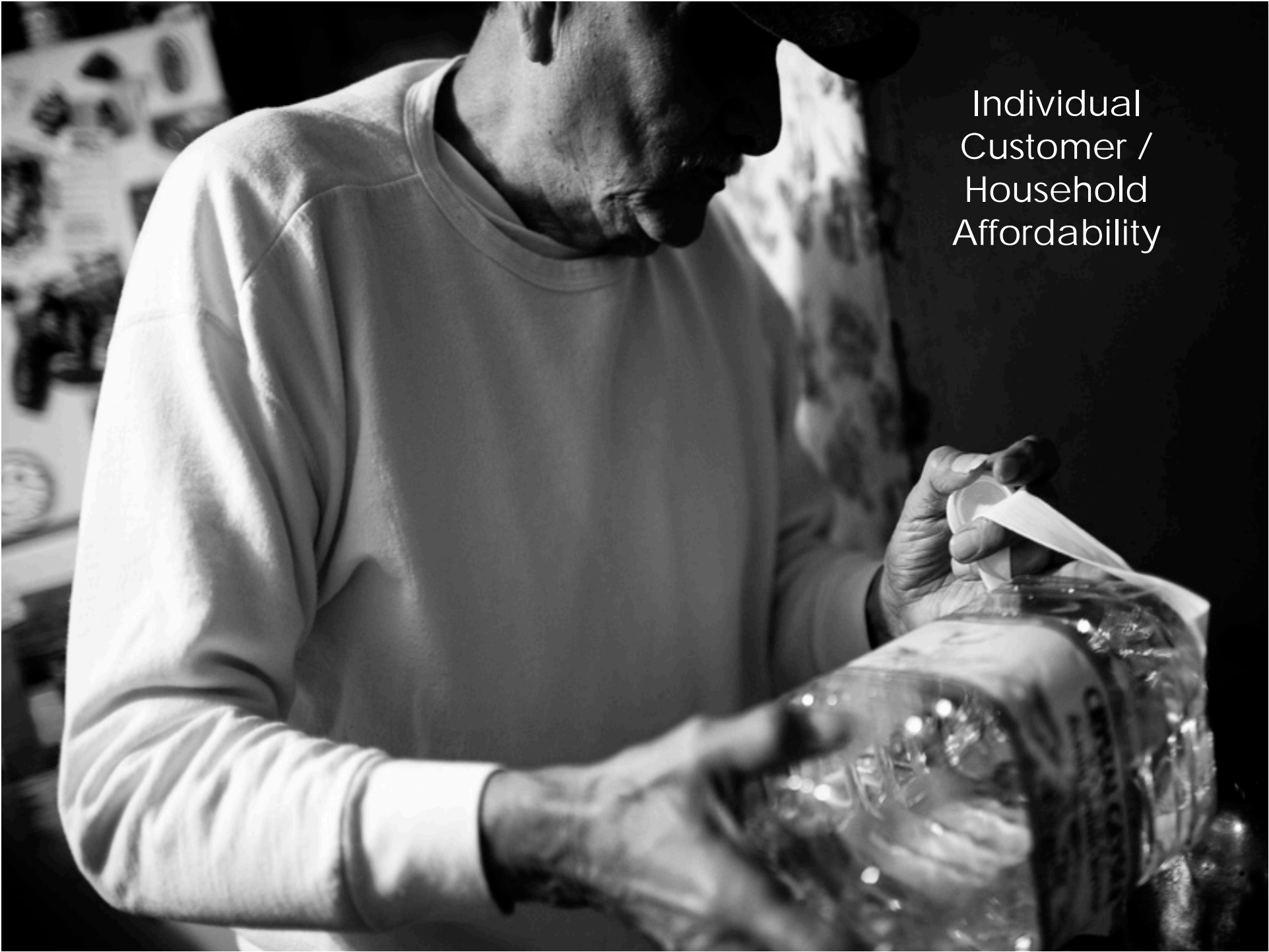
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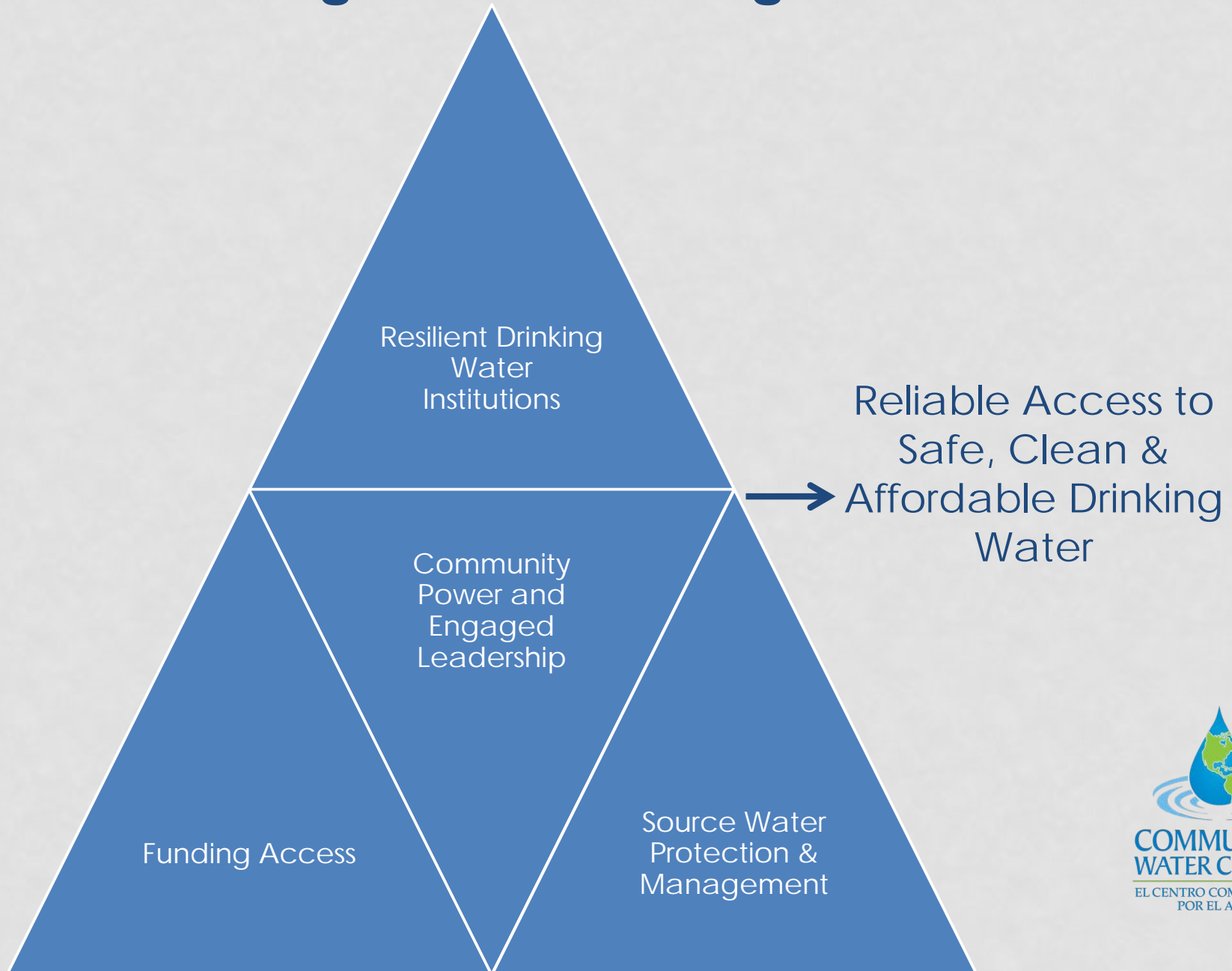
A black and white photograph showing a person with dark, curly hair, wearing a light-colored, vertically striped long-sleeved shirt, pouring water from a clear plastic jug into a white bucket. The person is standing on a wooden platform. Surrounding them are numerous other white plastic buckets and containers of various sizes, some stacked. In the background, there are some dry plants and a fence. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

Non-Centralized System User Affordability



Individual
Customer /
Household
Affordability

Securing the Human Right to Water



New Policy Tools

- Human Right to Water
 - Proposition 1 Water Bond
 - Office of Sustainable Water Solutions
 - New Consolidation Powers
 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - Dairies & Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs
 - School testing and funding programs
- 

Remaining Funding Barriers / Gaps

- Communities unable to afford to provide reliable access to safe drinking water
 - O&M
 - capital, planning, technical assistance
 - emergency replacement water
 - Ineligible uses of existing funding sources (private wells, state smalls, laterals, etc.)
- Low Income Rate Payer Assistance Programs

Solutions moving forward

- SB623/TLB: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
 - Leverage sources of capital \$
 - Build on Technical Assistance at SWRCB
 - Cover funding gaps (esp. O&M)
- Implement Complementary Programs / Powers
 - Promote more resilient institutions
 - Protect source water
- AB 401 – Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Programs

SB623 / TLB: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Broad Eligibility in order to:

- Fill gaps for those that need it most
- Secure long-term sustainability and cost effectiveness of drinking water services and infrastructure

Prioritizes:

- Disadvantaged communities and low-income domestic well users that
 - Consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water
 - Must charge rates that are above an adopted affordability threshold in order to provide safe water
- Non-capital costs that can't be covered by other sources of \$

Transparency:

- Annual needs assessment
 - Fund implementation plan developed and adopted in consultation with a broad multidisciplinary stakeholder group
 - Regular public review and assessment of the Fund
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SB623/TLB: Sustained funding shall come from:

- Increase to the existing fertilizer mill fees and fees on dairy producers to address nitrate impacts
 - CDFA also to establish a new fee for other non-dairy CAFOs
 - Estimated to raise \$30M annually for 15 years and \$10M annually after that
- New safe drinking water fee assessed monthly on drinking water bills
 - The monthly safe drinking water fee is capped at a maximum of \$.95 cents for most water users
 - Exemption from the fee for low-income households (under 200% of the federal poverty level)

Combined fees will raise an estimated total of \$140 million annually for the first two years, and thereafter can be kept consistent or reduced by the State Water Board based on the annual need assessment

Fees CANNOT be adjusted to exceed the caps identified in statute.

SB 623/TLB: Developing better data and assistance

- Collect and analyze existing local data on private wells and state small systems
- Identify high risk areas
- Support outreach and private well testing for low-income households and state small systems



Other Complementary Policy Efforts

1. AB 2050 (Caballero)– Regional Rural Drinking Water System Structure & Process
2. Water Bond Propositions (June & November)
3. AB401 – Recommendations done December 2018

Community Water Center:

Because clean
water is a right,
not a privilege.



Join the movement and
find out more online!

CommunityWaterCenter.org

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