

Californians Can't Drink Their Water?!

Tell your Legislators to **SUPPORT** the Human Right to Water Package!

The Problem

Many communities are unable to afford to clean-up the toxic chemicals in their water. This is especially frustrating because in many cases industrial and agricultural polluters are responsible, but there is no efficient mechanism to get them to take responsibility. Communities unable to afford treatment are left entirely without safe water. Buying bottled water is not an acceptable alternative to safe, affordable tap water.

We should be able to take for granted that the water that comes out of our taps is safe to drink. Too many Californians cannot. More than 250,000 Central Valley residents, alone, do not receive safe drinking water.

The Solution

The first step is to acknowledge that access to safe, affordable drinking water is a human right – and then work to make that right a reality. Our legislators have the opportunity to speak out now by supporting a package of bills that would make water a human right for all Californians. The package includes six bills:



AB 685 (Eng) – Establishes the human right to water in California.

AB 938 (V.M. Perez) – Requires that public health notifications about water be made available in the languages the community speaks.

AB 983 (Perea) – Promotes small community water system consolidation to provide sustainable, affordable solutions where possible.

AB 1187 (Fong) – Requires that the State Water Plan include a plan to provide everyone in California with safe drinking water.

AB 1221 (Alejo) – Ensures access to funding to clean up contamination for disadvantaged communities.

SB 244 (Wolk) – Requires local municipalities to include a plan to provide services to island or fringe communities when they update their general plans.

Get Involved!

It is critical that you support the passing of these bills. You can send a letter, email or make a phone call to your Assemblymember asking him or her to support them. Gather letters from individuals, groups or businesses in your community too. Meet with your Assemblymember or their staff. Write a piece for your local paper in support of the bills. Attend hearings on the bills in Sacramento and speak on behalf of your community.

You can stay up to date by joining the California Water Summit listserv at www.cawatersummit.org.

Sponsored by: Clean Water Action, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, Community Water Center, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Food and Water Watch, Southern California Watershed Alliance, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Action Network, CA, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Urban Semillas, Winnemem Wintu Tribe