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;
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
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%)
Community Water Center: Because clean water is a right, not a privilege.

Join the movement and find out more online!

CommunityWaterCenter.org

Laurel.firestone@CommunityWaterCenter.org