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.”
Affordability
Non-Centralized System User Affordability
Individual Customer / Household Affordability
Securing the Human Right to Water

- Resilient Drinking Water Institutions
- Community Power and Engaged Leadership
- Source Water Protection & Management
- Reliable Access to Safe, Clean & Affordable Drinking Water

Funding Access
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
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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