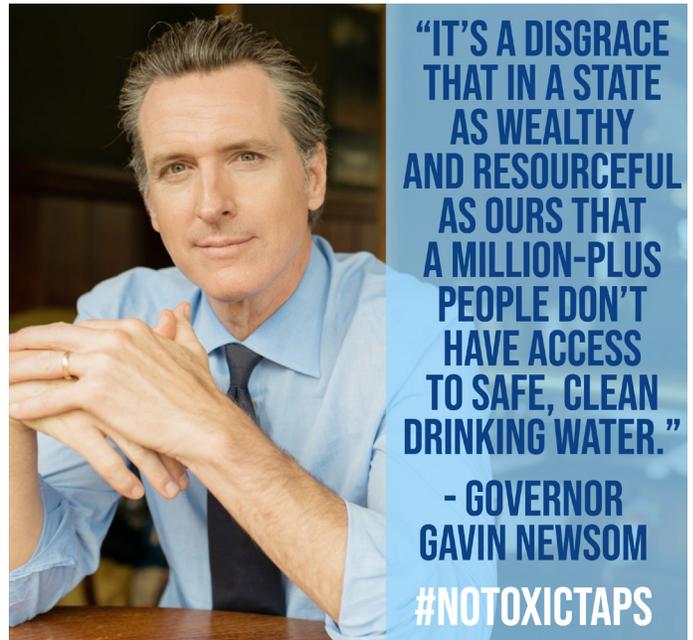
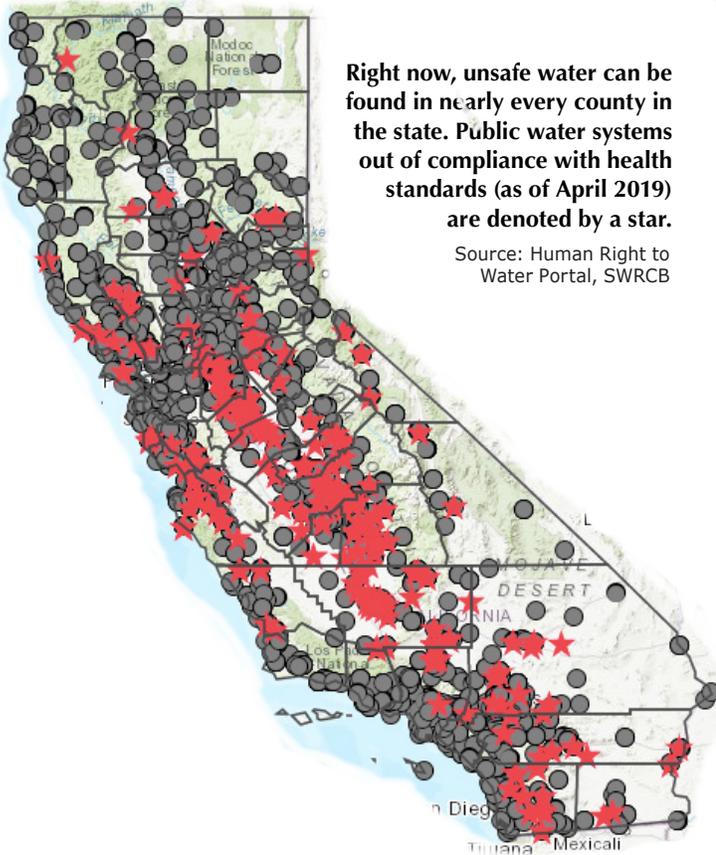


# Growing Momentum for Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

*Gov. Newsom's budget proposal, SB 200 (Monning),  
AB 217 (E. Garcia) respond to needs of impacted  
communities through new safe drinking water fee*

Each year, one million Californians are exposed to unsafe drinking water. Approximately 300 water systems – spanning every region of the state – fail to meet safe water standards. Contaminated water is a public health disaster – putting Californians at risk for cancer, birth defects, heart disease, diabetes and infant mortality.



Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately harmed by unsafe, unaffordable drinking water. For example, "low-income Latino residents are likely affected the most" by nitrate-contaminated drinking water in Valley communities, according to a UC Berkeley study. Schools impacted by unsafe drinking water have higher percentages of Latino students and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

# Unsafe Water Comes with High Costs for Californians Already Struggling to Make Ends Meet

According to a recent UC Davis study, disadvantaged communities often “pay a triple penalty” to obtain safe water: not only do they face health risks, their bills for toxic water tend to be higher, and they have to buy expensive bottled water to drink, cook and bathe.

In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water. The state declared, “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.” Since then, too little progress has been made to deliver safe water to both urban and rural communities across California. Children in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego and other communities are drinking lead-contaminated water in their school cafeterias and drinking fountains.

## Protect California Communities with a Safe Drinking Water Fee

Governor Newsom’s 2019 budget proposal, SB 200 and AB 217 reflect growing consensus that delivering safe water in California requires a small but sustainable fee to invest in new infrastructure, replace old infrastructure, provide emergency water supplies and support water treatment.

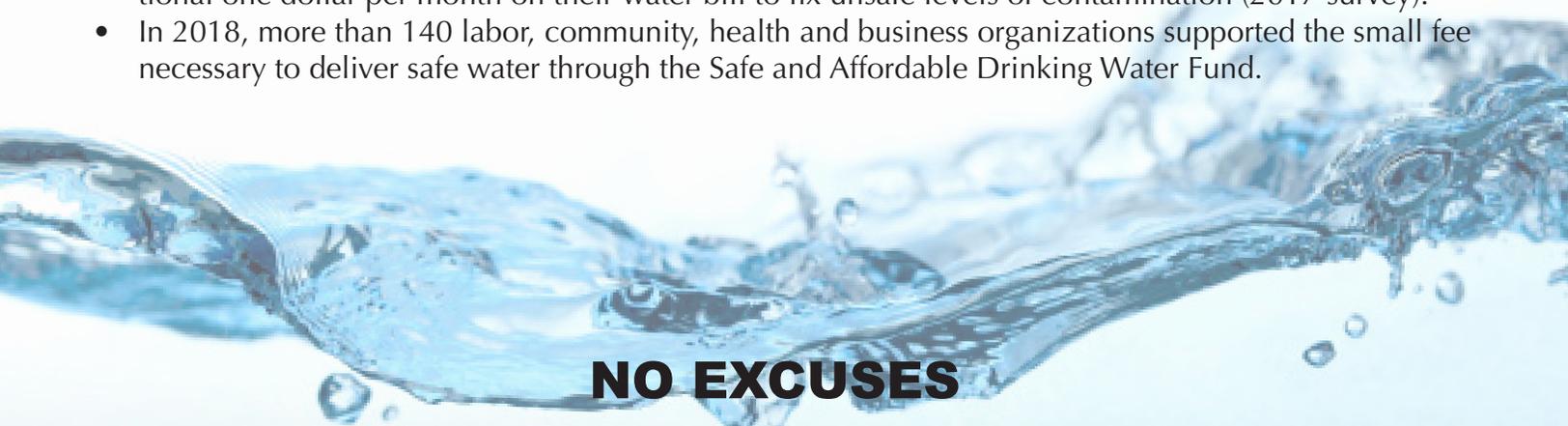
A Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund means keeping the promise of Safe Water for All Californians. For household water users, the fee amounts to less than the cost of a bottle of water—a dollar each month, with exemptions for low-income Californians. Yet it is enough to close the funding gap that keeps safe drinking water from homes and schools.

## Keeping the Promise of Safe Water for Impacted Communities Requires Ongoing Investment

Without a sustainable source of funding, California simply can’t maintain safe, affordable water systems to serve our most vulnerable communities up and down the state. If California fails to provide ongoing water system maintenance, communities of color and low-income neighborhoods face continual risk from unsafe water, particularly those reliant on domestic wells and small water systems.

## Strong, Broad Support for a Safe, Affordable Drinking Water Fund

- More than two-thirds of California voters (69%) said they would be willing to pay as much as an additional one dollar per month on their water bill to fix unsafe levels of contamination (2017 survey).
- In 2018, more than 140 labor, community, health and business organizations supported the small fee necessary to deliver safe water through the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.



**NO EXCUSES**

**Governor Newsom called lack of access to safe, affordable water a “disgrace,” and promised he has “no interest in everybody making excuses” instead of working to deliver safe, affordable water. With the leadership of the Governor and Legislators, 2019 is the year to deliver on the promise of safe, affordable water for all.**