HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER (HR2W) ANNUAL UPDATE

March 20th 2018 - Agenda Item #6

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Annual Update

AB 685

Resolution 2016-0010

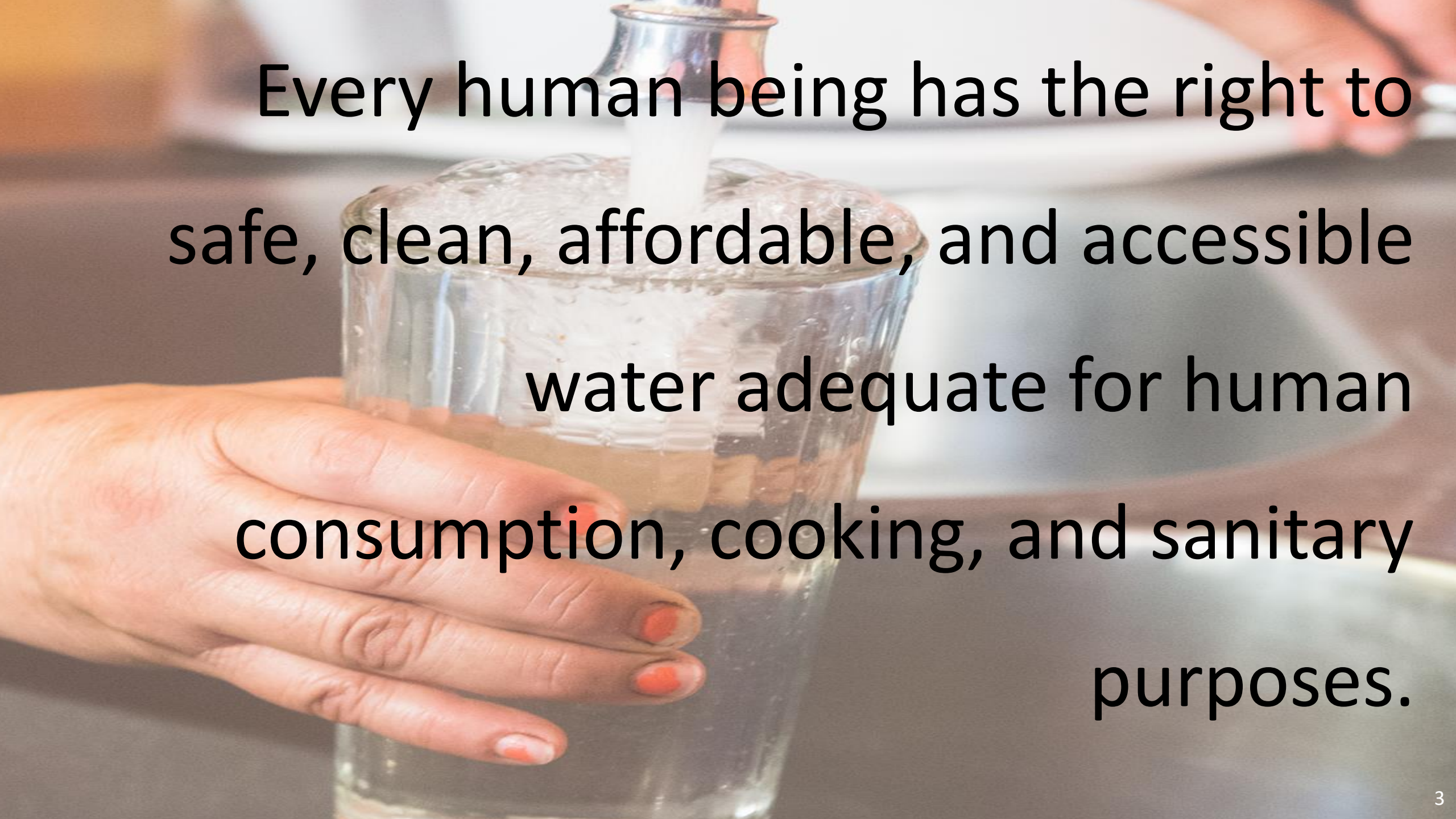
Three parts to HR2W:

1. Safe and Clean
2. Affordable
3. Accessible

Where are we one year later?

Survey of our Board wide efforts towards implementation

Successes and Challenges



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

Safe and Accessible Status

- Over 300,000 Californians are currently exposed to contaminated water at home or school (Public Water Systems)
  - Additionally Californians who rely on domestic wells are exposed to various contaminants
- San Joaquin Valley has the most acute exposure
  - Most communities are small and rural, and residents are low-income and Latino.
  - Nitrate and arsenic is the most critical contaminant of concern in the San Joaquin Valley

Accessible Status

- Thousands of households reported wells that were dry as of January 2017 (majority in Central Valley, i.e. Tulare, Madera and Stanislaus Counties)

- Data collection on water system vulnerabilities underway

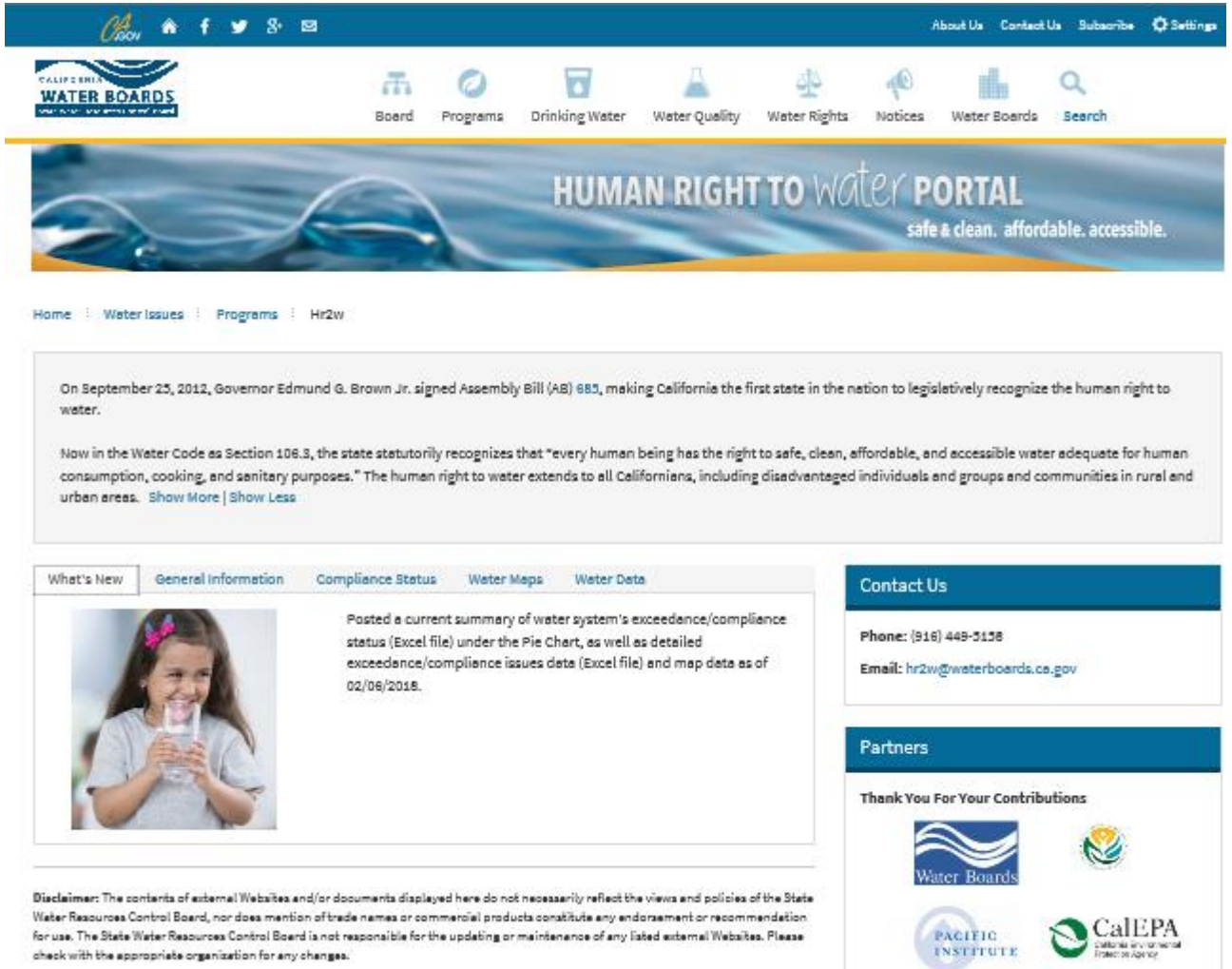
HR2W Portal Workgroup

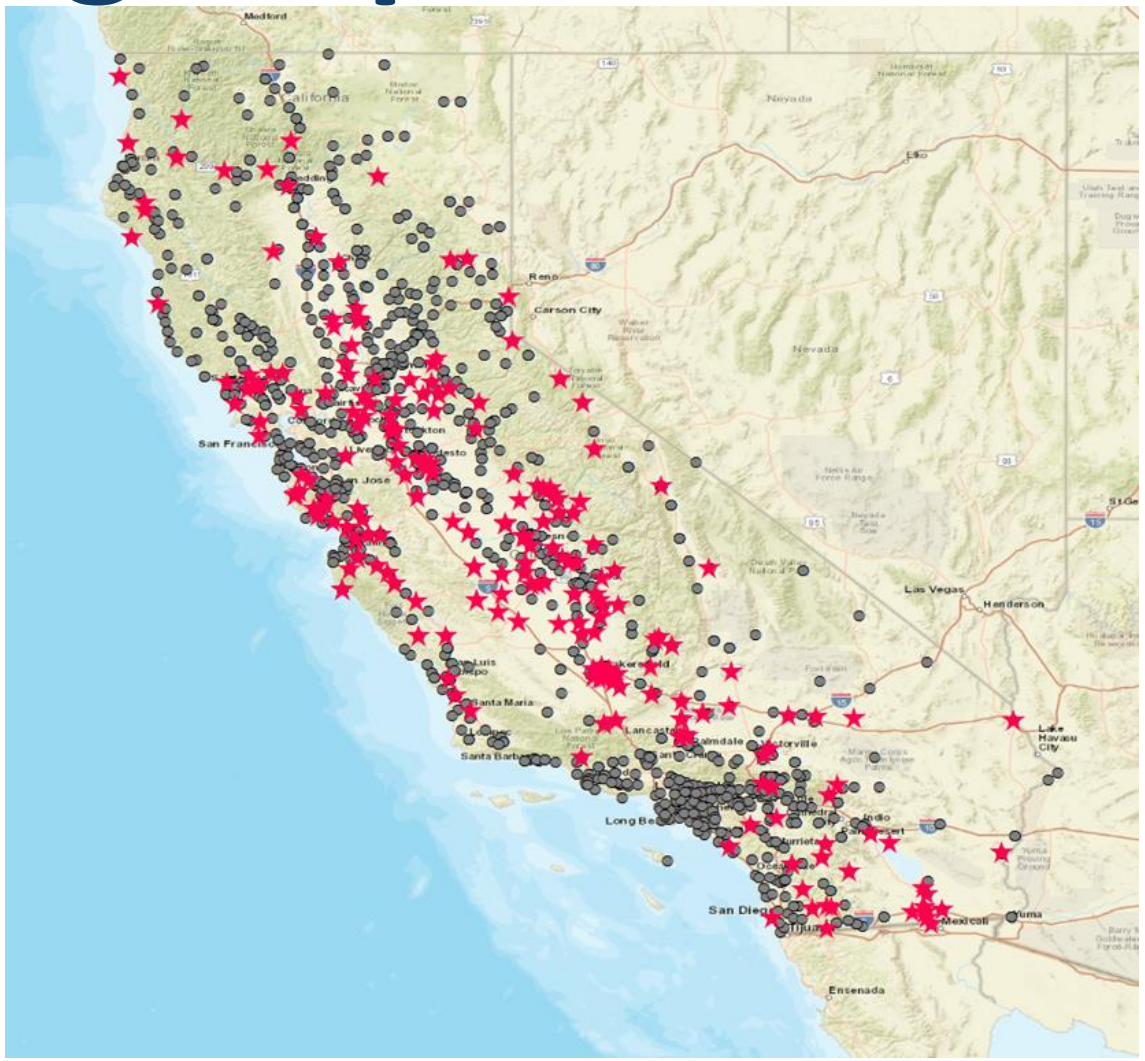
- Consists of State Board Divisions and Offices
- To create datasets and maps and make the information available to the public
- To establish metrics defining what it means for Californians to have water that is safe, clean, affordable, and accessible

HR2W Portal Updates

- Reconfigured website; user friendly navigation with organized tabs
- Map improvements
- Added state-only violations to the exceedance/compliance status data set and map
- Included more resources and links of interest to the public
- Included list of water systems compliance status

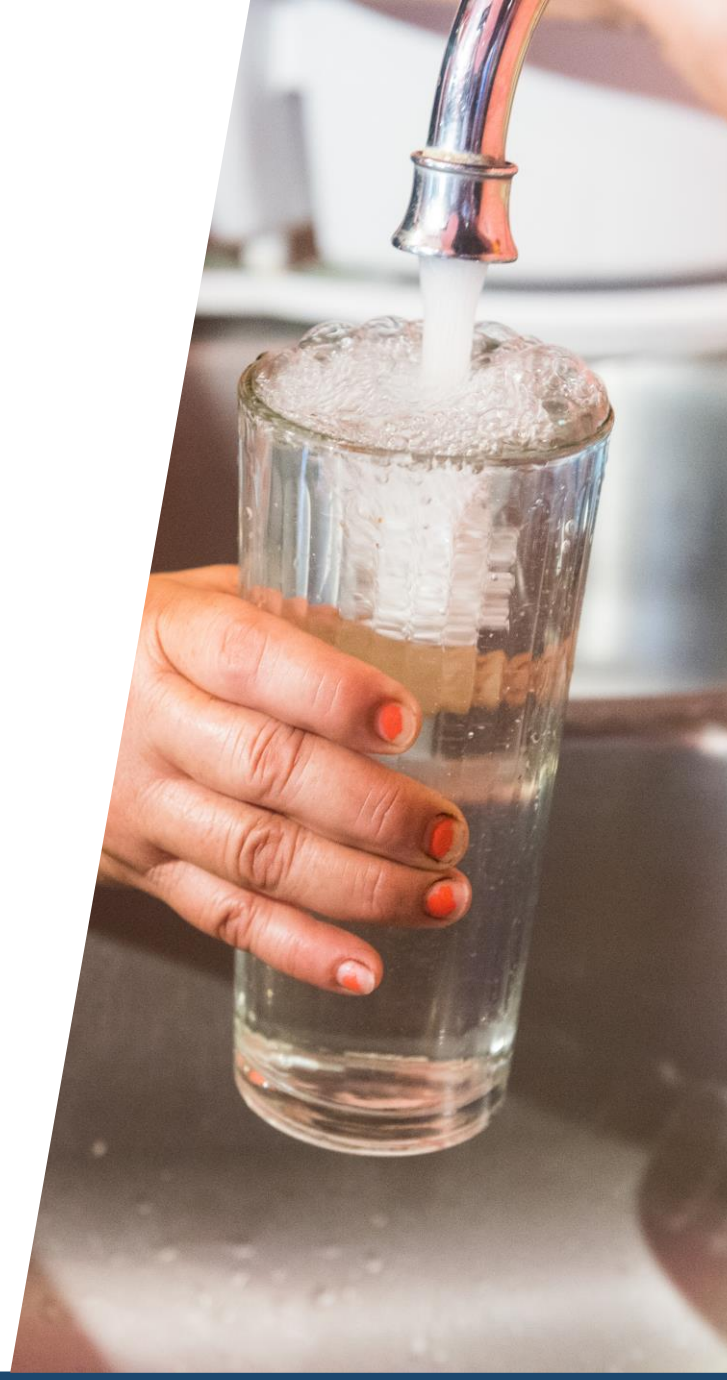
HR2W Portal Workgroup





HR2W Portal Next Steps

- Respond to Portal inquires
- Improve the Portal based on stakeholder feedback
- Improve the data quality
- Expand the current data set
- Accessibility section
- Affordability section



Community Engagement on Affordability and Accessibility

- Held public meetings around the state on low-income rate assistance (AB 401)

- Two joint workshops with the Public Utilities Commission on water system consolidations

Status of HR2W Legislation and Policy

- Governor's proposed budget/SB 623
  - State Water Board implementation responsibilities
- Consolidation legislation
- SB 998 (Shutoffs)
- AB 401 report
- Water affordability symposium
  - April 5, 2018

Survey Results
Outreach and Education

Water Board organizations are:

- Reaching out to EJ and DACs
  - Region 9 EJ Symposium
  - Region 3 Resolution and Work plan
  - DFA Mobile Application

Collaboration

Water Board organizations are:

- Ensuring that RPs provide replacement household drinking water in impacted communities
- Providing leadership for local EJ efforts
- Continuing partnerships with NGOs
- Working on Regional Resolutions

Groundwater

Water Board organizations are:

- Monitoring groundwater sources to further HR2W

Technical and Financial Assistance

Water Board organizations are:

- Continuing to provide technical assistance to DACs
  - Prop 1 appropriated $241,000,000 to drinking water projects – allocated by May 2018
  - Prop 1 $222,200,000 to small community wastewater projects – allocated by Dec 2018
- Prioritizing DACs for grants and loans

Technical and Financial Assistance

	Number of Projects/Agreements	Approx. Amount Committed	Approx. # of Communities	Approx. Population
Drinking Water Projects				
Planning	45	$23,186,000	44	140,000
Construction	23	$174,488,000	23	550,000
Total	**68**	**$197,674,000**	**67**	**690,000**
Wastewater Projects				
Planning	13	$5,964,000	12	46,000
Construction	14	$79,952,000	14	34,500
Total	**27**	**$85,916,000**	**26**	**80,500**
Technical Assistance				
Drinking Water	241	$8,020,000	235	400,000
Wastewater	51	$2,230,000	51	215,000
Total	**292**	**$10,250,000**	**286**	**615,000**

Consolidation

In California approx.

- 7,500 Public Water Systems
- 900 Wastewater Treatment Plants
- 75 Electricity Providers

Importance of Consolidation:

- Small systems have inadequate staffing
- Less resilient to natural disasters
- Difficulty funding infrastructure improvements
- Poor economies of scale
- Difficulty adjusting to regulatory changes
- Majority of MCL violations go to small systems

Consolidation

CA Drinking Water Violations:

System Size	% of Systems	% of Violations[2]
Very small (pop. 25-500)	61%	80%
Small (pop. 501-3,300)	16%	12%
Medium (pop 3,301-10,000)	8%	5%
Large (pop 10,001-100,000)	12%	2%
Very Large (>100,000)	3%	0%

[2]Violations based on CA Human Right to Water data for communities and schools-8/2017

Consolidation

Water Board organizations are:

- Working together on strategies and solutions that support HR2W
- 49 Consolidations in 2017
  - 3,162 Connections
- Approx. 230 voluntary consolidation letters sent out
  - 8 Mandatory on-going consolidation PWS projects

Enforcement and Policies

Water Board organizations are:

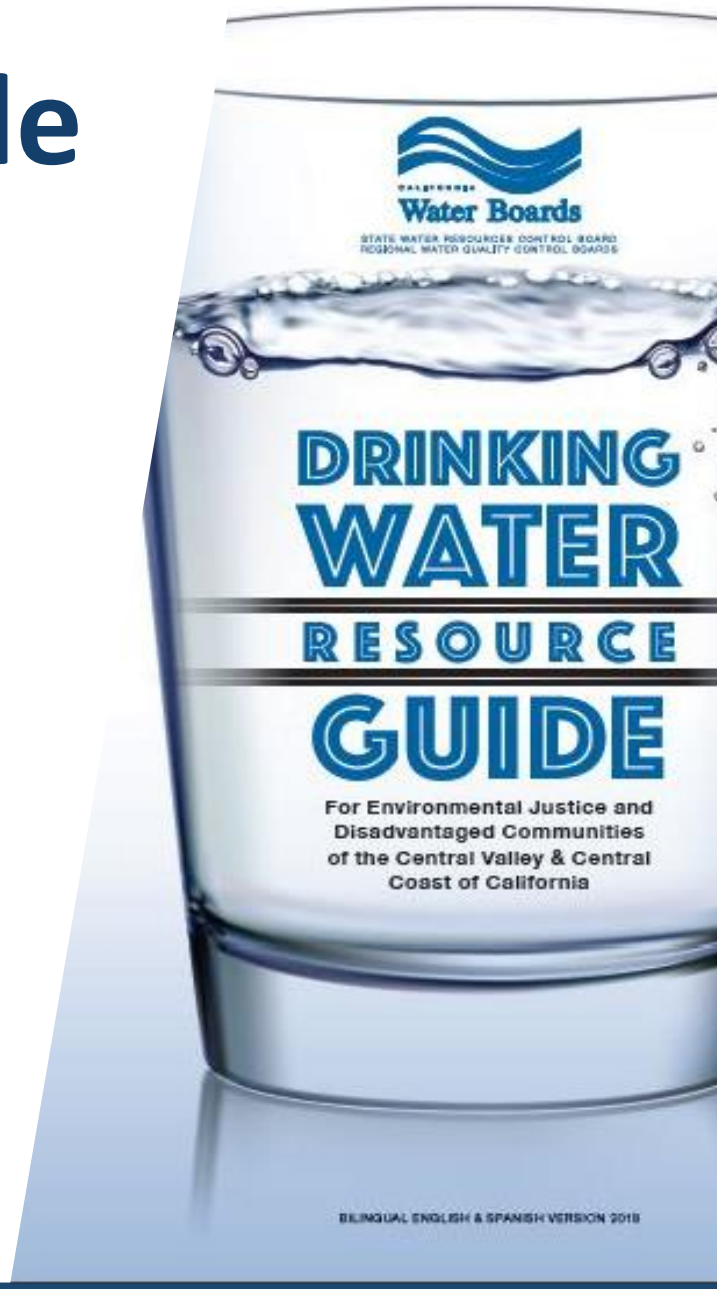
- Taking enforcement actions that further HR2W
- Developing Policies to further HR2W
  - Revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy
  - Revised Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP Policy)

EJ Summit

- EJ and Tribal reps expressed concern for equal engagement under SGMA
- Effective outreach of EJ requires community presence and awareness of issues in that area
- State funding provides limited resources for small and rural communities, and inadequate ongoing cost to sustain water systems
- Homeless encampments are an on-going concern for many regions

Drinking Water Resource Guide

- In English and Spanish
- Version addresses drinking water concerns for Central Valley (5) and Central Coast (3) Regional Boards
- **Issues include;** Nitrates, Lead, Emergency Water Supplies, Funding, Testing private wells and more.
- Currently developing additional guide for North Coast Region (1)



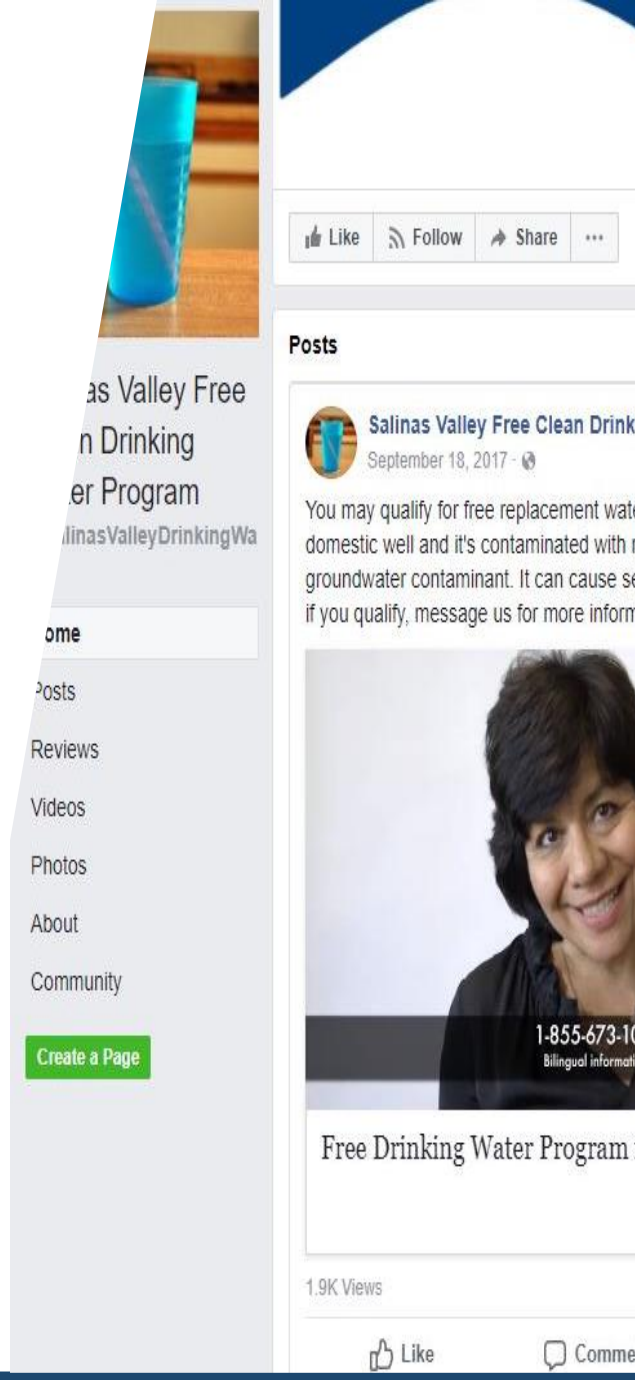
Challenges

Outreach Challenges

- Fear of government agencies
- Gaining acceptance to engage

Innovative Outreach

- Ex. Pilot Facebook Page for Salinas Valley Free Drinking Water Program
- Collaboration with Office of Public Affairs/ Bilingual staff
- Partnering with NGOs



Next Steps

- Annual Update – Spring 2019
- EJ Resource Guide – other regions
- EJ Summit(s)
- Continued conversations with our EJ partners
- Continued improvements to HR2W portal

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS