

# San Jerardo's experience with contaminated groundwater

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# San Jerardo Co-operative Salinas, CA



- In the heart of the agricultural Salinas Valley
- Cooperative formed in 1979 as housing for Mexican farm-workers
- Currently there are more than 250 people living here

# Spotlight on San Jerardo



- For years, community members have relied on drinking water with unsafe levels of Nitrates and 1,2,3 Trichloropropane
- This led to serious health problems among the residents
- Also wastewater problems



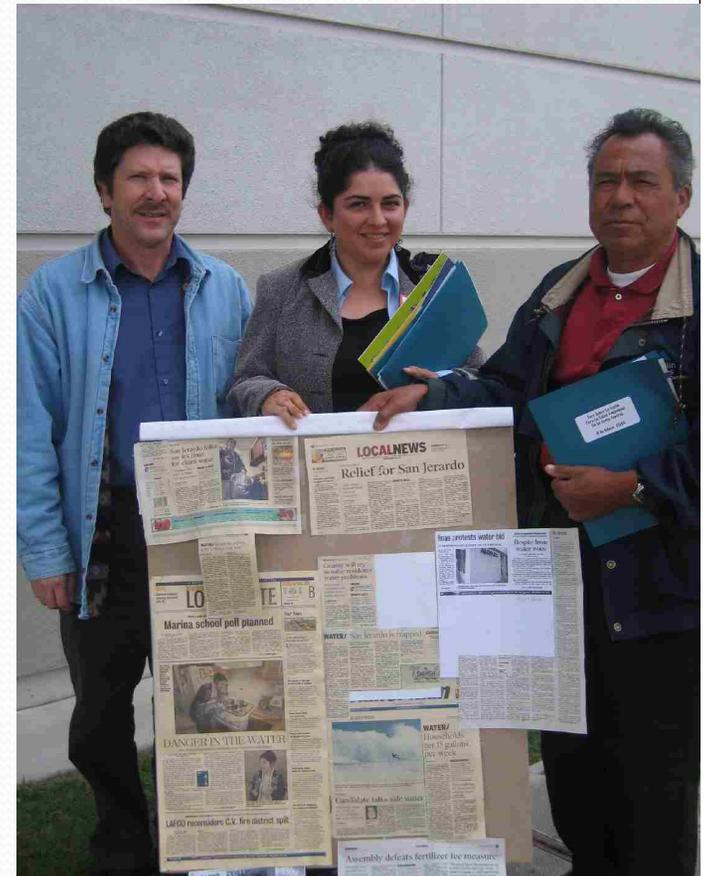
# Nitrates [ $\text{NO}_3$ ]



- Nitrates come mainly from agriculture, fertilizers
- Has serious Health Impacts, including 'Blue Baby syndrome'

- Nitrate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 45 ppm
- San Jerardo had levels upto 80 ppm in our old wells!

# San Jerardo's struggle



The County and the State and Regional Water Quality Control Board realized the serious problems that San Jerardo was facing – we thank you for taking action.

# The HIGH COSTS of agricultural contamination



- Monterey County now pays \$15,000 every month for an interim filtration system for San Jerardo !
- A New Well is being dug – at a total cost of \$3.5 million !
- And now San Jerardo's water and water will be pumped uphill from 2 miles away and our rates will be \$113 per month ! Can YOU imagine paying such high water rates?
- **THIS IS THE HIGH PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL CONTAMINATION IN THE SALINAS VALLEY !**

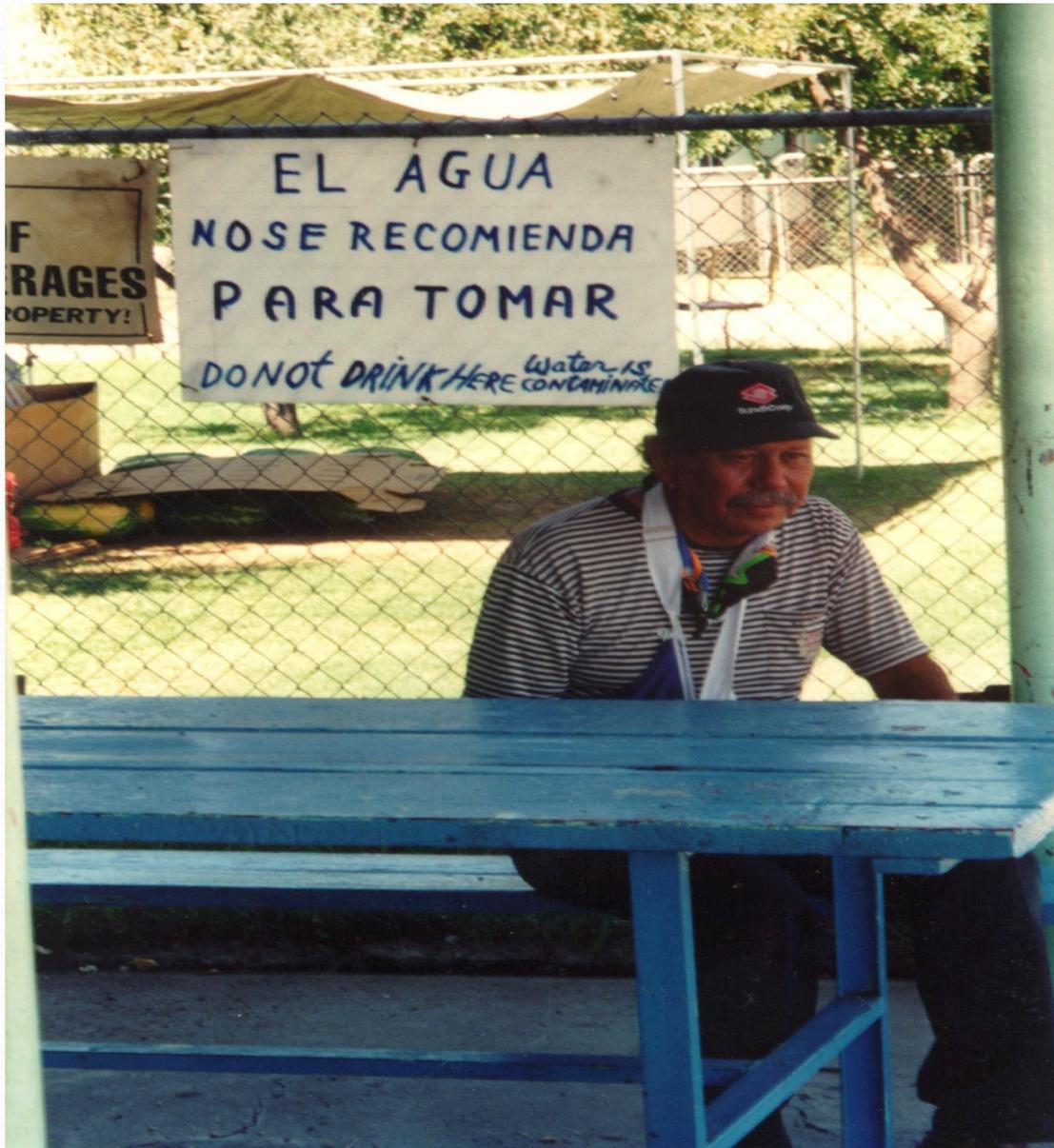
# **We SUPPORT the Staff Recommendations**



- **Agricultural discharges must be regulated to protect our water quality.**

- **We strongly support the Staff recommendations for individual monitoring, we want strict compliance timelines, and effective monitoring and reporting systems.**

- **We want the Regional Board to put fines for non-compliance – the cost to peoples health is too high.**



***Safe and  
Affordable  
Drinking Water is  
an Environmental  
Justice Issue in  
the Central Coast  
Region***

# QUEREMOS AGUA LIMPIA – We want clean water

