HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER (HR2W)

On September 12, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill (AB) 685, making California the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water.

Now in the Water Code as Section 106.3, the state statute recognizes that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Press Releases
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Water Code Section 106.3

DOWNLOAD HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER DATA

- Data Disclosure
- Exceedance/Compliance Status of Public Water Systems (PWSs)
Web Portal

- Downloadable data
  - Includes O&M cost estimate

- Maps

- Updates to include affordability and accessibility information

- Continued collaboration with Work Group
Some disadvantaged communities lack resources for O&M in order to deliver safe and affordable water
Consolidation often preferable, but some too remote to be consolidated
Draft fiscal estimate of annual statewide need based on costs for O&M (and capital needs)
- For public water systems
- Does not include private wells
O&M Needs Estimate Summary

- 309 public water systems included in the analysis, serving approximately 200,000 people statewide.
- Estimate of $45 million annually, which is close to $1 billion over 20 years (assumed amortization period).
- This does not include administrative costs that would be necessary to implement a program, if funded.
- Based on a snapshot in time.
  - Anticipated that some systems on the list may drop off as affordable solutions are found.
  - Meanwhile, more systems will likely emerge.
Questions for Panelists

• What are the biggest challenges/barriers to communities providing safe drinking water on their own?
• Which communities should be eligible for assistance with O&M?
• What are funding options for providing O&M assistance?
• How can other solutions be accelerated? (e.g., consolidations)