



# Report on Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Initiatives

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 9-4

March 11, 2019

# Background

- Approx. 200,000 Californians lack access to safe water
- Small, chronically failing water systems are dealing with multiple contaminants
- Some private, domestic wells also at risk
- Water systems located in disadvantaged communities lack technical, managerial and financial capacity



# Human Right to Water

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

-- AB 685 Eng, D-Alhambra (2012)

# State Water Resources Control Board

- Administers multiple programs to assist public water systems out of compliance
  - e.g., Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans
- Some small public water systems are ineligible for these programs due to inability to generate sufficient revenues to cover O&M costs, repay loans

# Safe Drinking Water Legislation

Recent state legislation introduced, but not enacted into law:

- 2017

- SB 623 (Monning, D-Carmel) - Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

- 2018

- Brown Administration's Budget Trailer Bill
- SB 844 (Monning, D-Carmel) - Agricultural Safe Drinking Water Fees
- SB 845 (Monning, D-Carmel) - Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
- AB 2050 (Caballero) - Small System Water Authority Act of 2019

# 2019 Proposed Legislation: Newsom Administration's Budget Trailer Bill

- Identical to SB 623 (Monning)
  - Creates Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
- Funding
  - Agricultural fee on fertilizer sales, livestock and dairy operations
  - Service connection charge on retail public water systems
- Agricultural Operations
  - Relief from enforcement for exceeding nitrate water quality objectives (10 years)
  - Relief from clean-up or abatement orders for nitrate pollution or nuisance (15 years)

# 2019 Proposed Legislation

## ● Funding “Spot” Bills

- AB 134 by Assembly Member Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) – MWD Position “Watch”
- AB 217 by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) - MWD Position “Watch”
- AB 1381 by Assembly Member Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield) - MWD Position “Watch”
- SB 200 by Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) - MWD Position “Watch”

## ● Governance

- SB 414 by Senator Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) re Small System Water Authority Act – MWD Position “Support”

