

Invest in Safe Water for Struggling Californians

Calling on state leaders to fund an initiative to alleviate hardship through supplemental nutrition assistance in the 2017-18 Budget



In Porterville hundreds of families experiencing hunger gather at the Iglesia Emmanuel's food pantry to pick up food and water to mitigate the hardship brought on by the California water crisis.

"There are more than 1,200 properties without drinkable water in the community. Every fourth Monday more than 300 families, many who use CalFresh, come to our pantry to access water because their wells have gone dry. There are some that have gone without water for more than six months. I will always remember the first time I realized we had a problem in the community. A member of the church told me that he goes out in the middle of the night to get water for his family from the park. They boil the water because they don't have enough money to buy water. This was when I committed myself to doing something to help my community."

- Pastor Manuel Roman

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“Sin agua no hay vida. Hemos estado sin agua por años. Tenemos que luchar para traer agua saludable a nuestras comunidades. Imagínate despertar todos los días y no poder tomar agua. Esta es la realidad que vivimos las familias aquí en el valle central. Comprar agua cada semana es parte de la rutina y está normalizado en esta comunidad.”

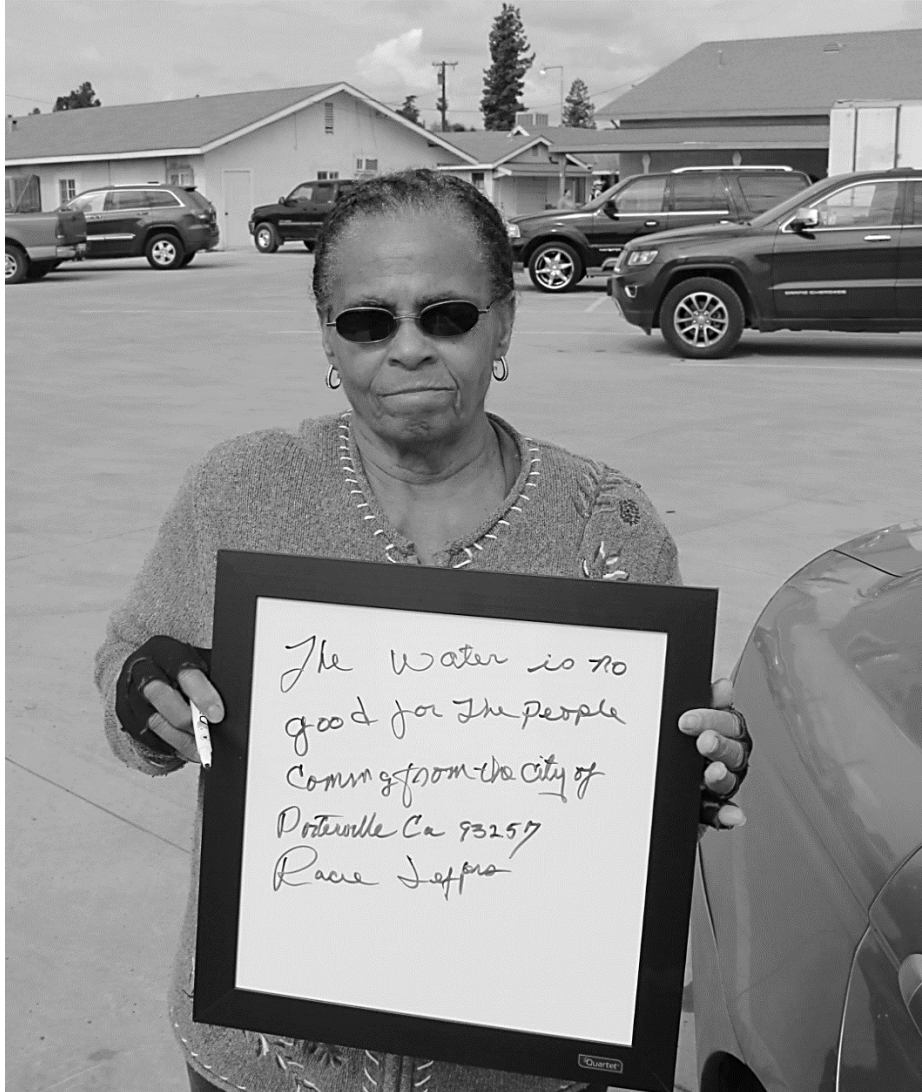
“Without water, there is no life. We have been without water for years. We must fight to bring safe drinking water to our community. Imagine waking up every day and not being able to drink water. This is the reality families in the Central Valley live. Buying water is part of the routine and normalized in this community.”

-Alba Rodriguez

Community leaders across California impacted by unsafe water are working tirelessly to bring safe, clean and affordable drinking water for communities across the Central Valley. They are looking for state leaders to address the unsafe and unjust water contamination issues that make water unsafe to drink in places like Delano, Visalia, Porterville, Arvin, and many other communities in the same situation. Water is a human right that no Californian should be without.

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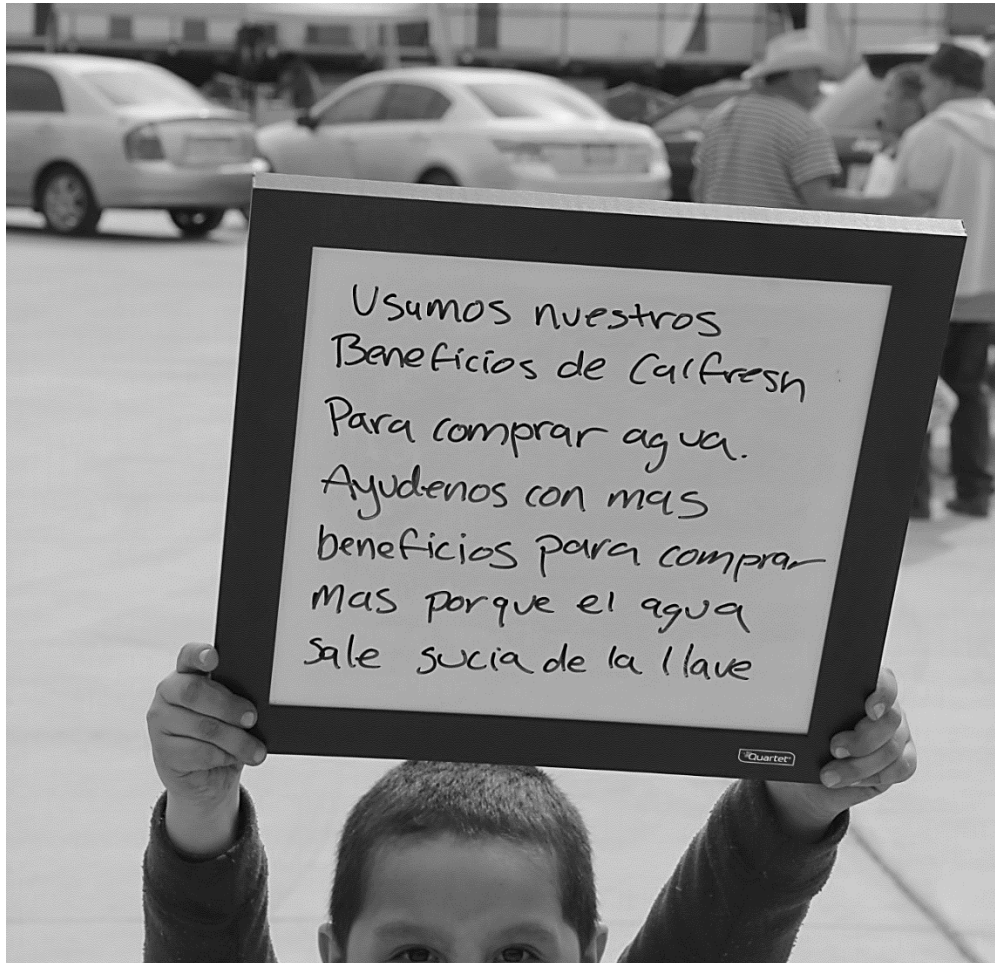
In East Porterville, about 160 miles north of Los Angeles, more than 500 families are out of water. Some homes rely on private ground wells, while others use bottled water to survive.

"I have been without water for years. Just last week I was the third person to finally be connected to the City of Porterville water. The water is still coming out brown and looks dirty. We need to do more to support families in this area. Families are struggling and will continue to struggle until more is done. We need help, and we need it now!"

- Race Jeffers

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Children are especially vulnerable to the water contamination issues happening in the Central Valley. Contaminants like arsenic and nitrate can have devastating effects on the wellbeing of young children. Access to safe water should not be determined by what zip code someone lives in.

"I worry about my children drinking water every day. When they play, they always ask for water. We go through a lot of water sometimes, especially when it's hot here in Tulare. I usually use our CalFresh benefits to buy water. There are times I wish we had more benefits so we can buy more water because our water comes out dirty from the faucet.

-Jannet Ruiz