

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-0040**

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING
WATER ACT AND DEEMING DECEMBER 16TH SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT DAY

WHEREAS:

1. In 1915, California established its drinking water program within the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, working to provide pure and wholesome drinking water for all Californians.
2. In 1974, the United States Congress enacted the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), a milestone in protecting public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply.
3. In 1976, the California Legislature enacted the California Safe Drinking Water Act, implementing the federal SDWA and setting state-specific drinking water standards.
4. For five decades, the SDWA has set essential drinking water quality standards, empowering the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set health-based limits for contaminants, ensuring safe drinking water for millions.
5. The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) implements the SDWA in California, in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies and public water systems.
6. California has been a leader in setting drinking water standards often more stringent than federal regulations, prioritizing protection for all communities, particularly vulnerable and underserved populations.
7. The State Water Board is a national leader in addressing emerging contaminants, including PFAS, microplastics, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium, which pose new challenges to drinking water systems.
8. California is committed to providing clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to all its residents, recognizing the human right to water as a guiding principle in its regulatory framework.

9. The State Water Board prioritizes resilience and equity in water management, addressing drought, climate change, and the needs of disadvantaged communities.
10. Partnerships between state and local governments, Native American Tribes, water agencies, and community organizations have been essential to California's commitment to water safety, stewardship, and sustainability.
11. The State Water Board promotes technological innovation, infrastructure investment, and public awareness to maintain high drinking water quality standards into the future.
12. The Safe to Drink Workgroup under the California Water Quality Monitoring Council coordinates state agencies, stakeholders, and communities to develop more effective monitoring programs and improve public access to water quality information.
13. In 2012, Assembly Bill 685 recognized the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water, making it state policy.
14. In 2014, the California Drinking Water Program transitioned to the State Water Board, consolidating oversight of drinking water, water quality, and water rights, enhancing the state's ability to protect public health and water resources.
15. The State Water Board's Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program addresses water quality and affordability in disadvantaged communities, distributing over \$803 million in grants to advance the human right to water.
16. The Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) adopted national TNI standards to enhance the integrity of drinking water testing and monitoring statewide.
17. California upholds the principle that MCLs should be as health-protective as technologically and economically feasible, declining to adopt the 1996 federal SDWA amendments requiring cost-benefit analyses for each MCL.
18. California has established 25 Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) more health-protective than federal standards and set 14 MCLs for contaminants

without federal counterparts, including protections for perchlorate, hexavalent chromium, and 1,2,3-TCP.

19. The State Water Board's Water Arrearage program provided financial relief to water customers impacted by COVID-19, reducing debt and stabilizing water systems.
20. California has led the nation in recycled water regulations, including indirect potable reuse, surface water augmentation, and direct potable reuse.
21. California is the first jurisdiction worldwide to define and establish testing methods for microplastics in drinking water, demonstrating leadership on emerging contaminants.
22. The State Water Board has been a leader in addressing PFAS through testing, investigations, and implementing notification and response levels.
23. California has become a national leader in wildfire drinking water emergency response through innovative policies, emergency monitoring, and resilient infrastructure investments.
24. California looks to the future challenges of ensuring water affordability, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing system efficiency, resilience, and disaster recovery for all communities.
25. Future water management will require innovative approaches, including consolidations, regionalization, and partnerships to address sustainability and resilience needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. On the 50th anniversary of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the State Water Board declares December 16th "Safe Drinking Water Act Day" to celebrate its legacy and reaffirm its commitment to ensuring clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for all Californians.

2. The State Water Board will continue to promote equitable access to drinking water, prioritize sustainable water management, and address emerging challenges, keeping public health, environmental protection, and equity at the forefront of its mission.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on December 4, 2024.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board