



COMMUNITY WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

2022-23
ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Supporter,

Denise and Kayode Kadara are proud residents of Allensworth, the first town in California to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans. Despite recent underinvestment, they are dedicated to preserving their historic and proud community. Allensworth, which has already been struggling with chronic arsenic contamination, was inundated with flood waters during the January storms. Calls for support to local and state officials went unanswered, with each agency pointing to the other for responsibility. Meanwhile, as flood waters crept closer and closer to their homes, Allensworth was left to fend for itself.

We need to be prepared for climate extremes, and yet, our government officials continue to react too slowly or not at all to this imminent threat. This is not ok. The climate crisis is here. Current research predicts the world is likely to breach the critical 1.5 Celsius threshold by 2027, which could have dire consequences.

Low-income communities of color are at the frontlines of this crisis.

Historic flooding this past spring displaced families from their homes, jobs and schools. Tulare Lake returned to the Central Valley for the first time in decades, putting nearby towns of Allensworth, Alpaugh and Corcoran at risk.


At the same time, despite historic rain and snowfall, more than 450 wells went dry in 2023. One extremely wet year cannot make up for decades of groundwater mismanagement and overpumping.

Our communities need support to cope with climate whiplash.

Fortunately, there are actions we can take to ensure our frontline communities are more protected and resilient. More public funding is being made available for climate adaptation and resiliency. The work ahead lies in connecting the greatest needs of frontline communities with the resources to address them. CWC is engaging in these conversations already, but the urgent nature of the climate crisis will require all of us to step up even more.

Supporters like you make it possible to respond to changing community needs. Thank you for being part of the water justice movement and helping us build a more resilient California.

Mil gracias,



Susana De Anda



OUR MISSION: The Community Water Center acts as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy in California.

Organizing and Power Building

Impacted Residents Driving Change

For the past 17 years, the AGUA Coalition (la Asociación de Gente Unida por el Agua, or the Association of People United for Water) have taken action on drinking water issues facing small, rural communities of color.

Their advocacy has led to greater protection from groundwater pollution and targeted funding to address drinking water contamination issues facing the state's most vulnerable communities.



AGUA members from the Central Coast and Central Valley traveled to Sacramento to advocate for tenants' rights and protections from water shutoffs.

AGUA Highlights

- Expanded membership to the Central Coast.
- Members in West Goshen, East Orsi and Monterey County are moving water infrastructure projects forward.
- AGUA member Horacio Amezcua of Salinas joined CWC's Board of Directors.
- Members traveled to the nation's capitol this fall to advocate with their federal decision makers for the first time!



AGUA leaders Simona Magaña, Sandra Garcia and Josie Nieto met with Congress in Washington D.C. to push for the creation of a low-income water rate assistance program nationwide.



Water Leaders Securing Solutions

Linda Guttierrez joined her local water board in Seville because she knows what it's like to live without safe water. Seville had struggled for years with unsafe levels of nitrates before a new well was drilled. Recently, a new problem emerged, this time with declining water levels. To address this new threat, Linda reached out to local NGOs to deliver supplemental water to keep the well running while she worked on a more lasting solution. Last year, Linda helped Seville secure a \$1 million grant for a new well, which will be operational in 2024.

At Community Water Center, we founded the Community Water Leaders Network to support leaders like Linda. CWC provided Linda with information on funding sources to address her community's drinking water issue and helped ensure the process moved forward with the necessary urgency. CWC supports CWLN members by providing updates on key policies and funding programs and helping them troubleshoot issues as they pursue drinking water solutions.

Drinking Water Policy

The Human Right to Water law in California promises safe, clean, affordable and accessible water for all. Yet, more than one million Californians struggle to access this right every year.

Water Supply

Groundwater is a precious shared resource that we all depend on for survival. When drought hits, growers drill deep wells to tap into groundwater which has dewatered local community wells nearby. The lack of groundwater protections in this state was built to benefit corporate agriculture and its delivering the expected results. But community residents are not just standing by as their water is depleted to irrigate crops.

This year, community input led to the rejection of six groundwater management plans in the San Joaquin Valley. If passed, these plans would have put 127,000 people at high risk of losing their water supply completely by 2040. More work lies ahead to protect community drinking water supplies, but our partners are ready for the fight. Their future depends on it.



Ruth Martinez, community activist and Ducor Community Service District Board Member, speaks with CNN on declining groundwater levels in June 2022.

Contamination

We work in three main areas: reducing pollution from the agricultural industry and dairies, establishing health-protective legal limits for emerging contaminants and ensuring polluters pay for short and long term access to safe drinking water.

Reducing Pollution

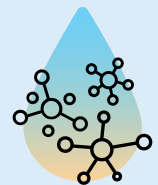
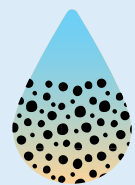
- Reasonable limits on fertilizer and pesticide use in agriculture
- Reduction of nitrate levels in the Central Valley basin
- Reduction of dairy pollution

Protecting Public Health

- Advocating for strong legal limits for unregulated contaminants such as Hexavalent Chromium and PFAS
- Partnering with researchers to learn more about unregulated contaminants in our drinking water

Polluters Pay

- Hold growers accountable for well testing and replacement water for nitrate-impacted households
- Require polluters to identify long-term solutions for contaminated water



Water Affordability

For far too many Californians, affordable water is out of reach. An estimated 500,000 people statewide had their water shut off in 2019 because they couldn't afford to pay their water bills. The government has programs in place to help low-income households afford certain essential services like electricity and internet access, but none for drinking water.

To address this critical gap, it's a CWC priority to establish and fund a Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Program for drinking water. Due to multiple years of community-led advocacy, research and media coverage, we have generated significant momentum in California and at the federal level. We are building a multi-racial movement for water justice across the U.S. to push for a national water affordability program.

RECENT WINS

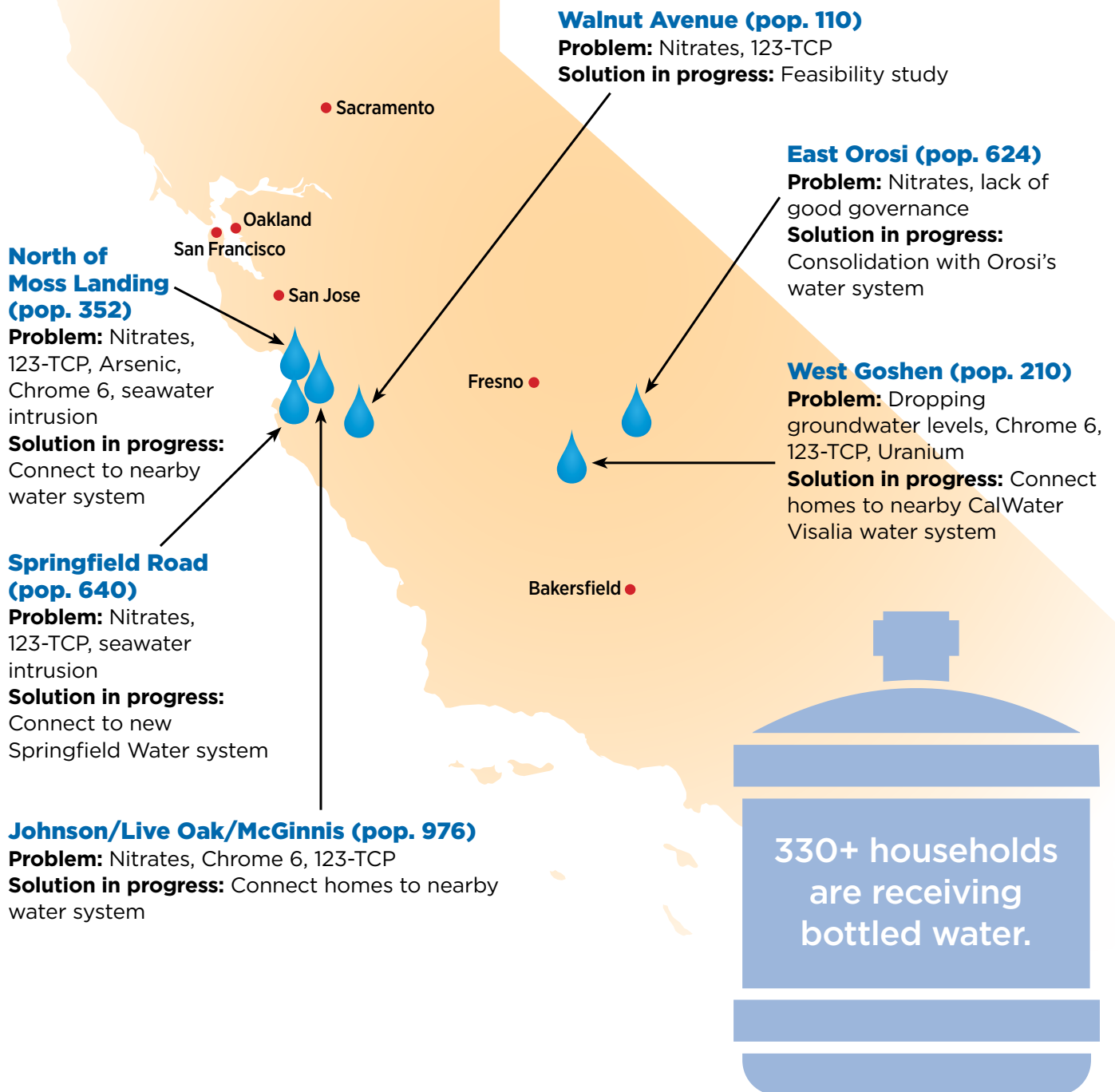
- **Passed Senate Bill 3** - makes water shutoffs due to lack of payment illegal statewide.
- **Passed AB 664** - requires landlords to conduct testing and provide bottled water for tenants if their water is found to be unsafe.



CWC's Co-Founder and Executive Director Susana De Anda speaking at a rally for affordable water on the California Capitol steps in 2022.

Following Through on the Human Right to Water

CWC is leading six projects that will bring safe water to more than 3,000 people. Several new projects are also in development. As long-term solutions are pursued, we also connect residents living with contamination to resources like bottled water delivery.



2022 Financials

Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

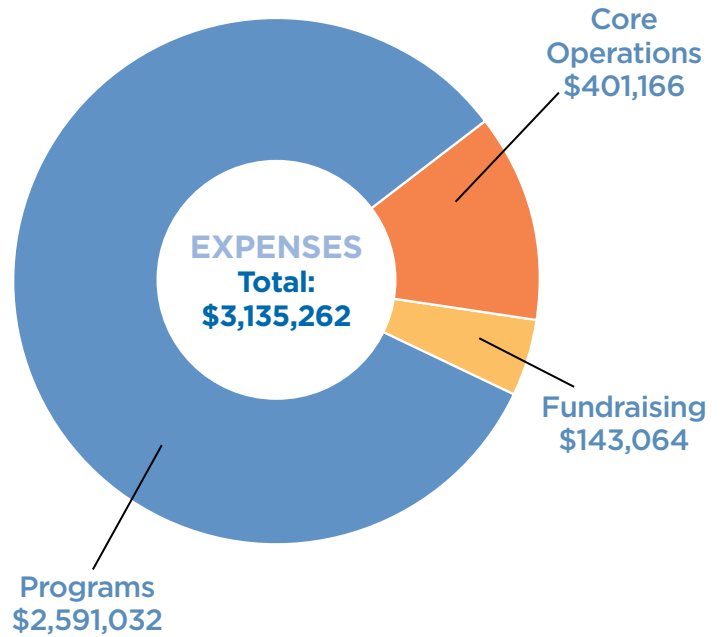
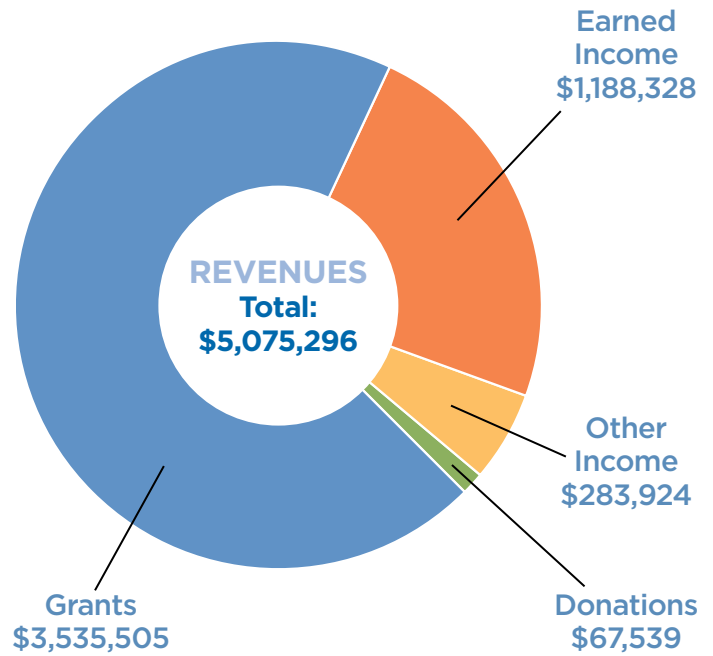
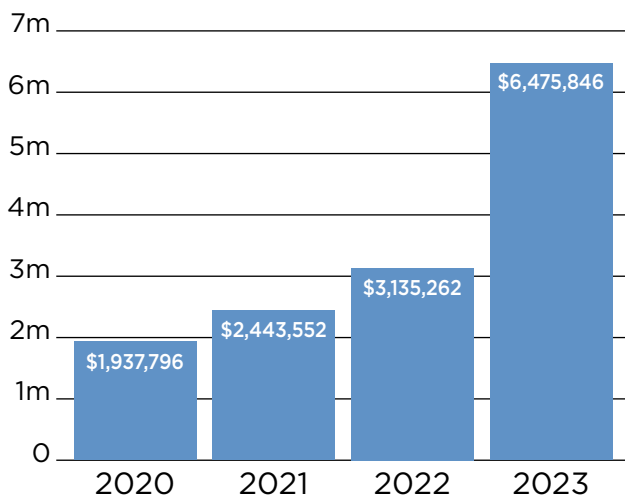
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,147,703
Accounts & Grants Receivable	\$1,152,093
Prepaid Insurance & Other Current Assets	\$34,338
Property & Equipment	\$17,912
Other Assets	\$330,761
Total Assets	\$6,682,807

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$59,035
Accrued Expenses	\$221,076
Refundable Advances	\$43,667
Total Current Liabilities	\$664,416
Other Liabilities	\$320,638
Total Net Assets	\$6,038,391
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$6,682,807

Budget Growth 2020-23

in millions



**Cash Reserve:
11.5 Months**

2022 Donors

Funders

11th Hour Project/Schmidt Family Foundation
Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation
Bancroft Foundation
California Department of Water Resources
California State University, Fresno
California State Water Resource Control Board
Community Foundation of Monterey County
Kaiser Permanente
No Regrets Initiative of the Globetrotter Foundation
Orange County Community Foundation
Patagonia
PolicyLink
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Satterberg Foundation
ShIPLEY Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Singing Field Foundation
Spring Point Partners
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
The Center at the Sierra Health Foundation
Tulare County Resources Management Agency
Water Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Women's Foundation of California

Individuals

Alex Chen & Kate Kerkerling
Ann Maxwell
Arden Wells
Ashley Boren
Barbara Wyler
Barry Nelson
Benigna Hernandez
Bessma Mourad
Bob Simone
Brian & Ellen Hinton
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Carol Seastrom
Carrie McNeil

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Catherine Courtney
Catherine Grosso
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Christina Sabater
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Roberto Vargas
Rosmarie Herschbach
Ryan Flaherty
Sandra Goldenberg
Sandra Hocker
Sandra Rose
Sarah & Elias Ken Shena
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Simon Campo
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Yvon Chouinard



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EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

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