

Today we are mobilizing against agricultural pollution- a problem that pervades watersheds throughout the state and disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities and communities of color.

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper/media outlet, or write to a regional water board, urging them to make controlling agricultural pollution and pesticides a top priority.

Key Points:

- Industrial agricultural industries are destroying the state's sources of drinking water and face little regulation. This needs to change.
- More than 1 million people in California do not have access to clean water, and the majority of these people are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. This is environmental injustice and environmental racism.
- We cannot solve the state's drinking water crisis unless the State Water Boards regulate agriculture and pesticide pollution and the Governor commits to standing up to big ag.
- The American Bar recognizes that agriculture is THE MAIN source of water pollution in CA.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for local water quality control plans and standards. However, regulation is patchy and there is no state-wide approach for monitoring or enforcing penalties for agricultural pollution.

Letters to the Editor:

Letters to the editor are SHORT- usually under 300 words. This is equivalent to one short paragraph.

You will often need to include: First and last name, current town of residence, postal address, and phone number. See websites below for specific requirements per news-source.

The Sacramento Bee, 150 word limit:

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

San Fran. Chronicle, 200 word limit:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letters-editor/item/How-to-submit-Letters-56188.php>

The Oregonian, 250 word limit:

Email: letters@oregonian.com

See for more instructions:

https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/page/how_do_i_write_a_letter_to_the.html

Times Standard, 250 word limit:

Email: letters@times-standard.com

See for more instructions: <https://www.times-standard.com/how-to-reach-us/>

North Coast Journal, 300 word limit:

Email letters@northcoastjournal.com

See for more instructions:

<https://posting.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/ContactUs/Page>

Redding Record Searchlight, 200 word limit

<https://static.redding.com/letter-to-the-editor/>

Email: letters@redding.com

Del Norte County Triplicate, 300 word limit

https://www.triplicate.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/

The Fresno Bee, 200 word limit

<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

Contact Regional Water Boards:

North Coast Water Board: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Matt.St.John, member of North Coast Water Board: Matt.St.John@waterboards.ca.gov

San Francisco Bay Region: info2@waterboards.ca.gov

Central Coast Region: info3@waterboards.ca.gov

Los Angeles Region: info4@waterboards.ca.gov

Central Valley Region: info5@waterboards.ca.gov

Karl Longley, Chair: karl.longley@waterboards.ca.gov

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk: Jeanine.Townsend@waterboards.ca.gov

Lahontan Region: info6@waterboards.ca.gov

Colorado River Basin Region: info7@waterboards.ca.gov

Santa Ana Region: info8@waterboards.ca.gov

San Diego Region: info9@waterboards.ca.gov

Public Information Officers:

Blair.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov

Ailene.Voisin@Waterboards.ca.gov

Edward.Ortiz@Waterboards.ca.gov

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for Environmental Protection:

SectyBlumenfeld@calepa.ca.gov

State-wide Water Boards: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Joaquin Esquivel, Chair CA Water Boards: Joaquin.Esquivel@waterboards.ca.gov

Today is also the national day of action for the Value of Water Campaign:

“Imagine a Day Without Water”

#ValueWater is trending on Twitter- let's participate and show that we know how important it is to #ValueWater

Tweet what water means to you, or take ideas from these tweets to repost:

Can I #ImagineADayWithoutWater ? YES! Millions in the US do not have the luxury of having running water on demand. Native communities in CA are forced to rely on bottled water because their water is filled with toxic pollution and algae.

@GavinNewsom- it's time to #ValueWater

#ImagineADayWithoutWater- Native communities in #NorCal do this everyday. #BIPOC who do not have access to clean water do this every day. For over 6 million people in the US, a lack of access to clean water is a reality, today and everyday. #ValueWater

When we #ImagineADayWithoutWater let's remember that a lack clean water disproportionately impacts #BIPOC. In #CA alone, over 1 million people do not have access to clean water. To #ValueWater also means to value the communities who are underserved, and fight for equal access.

In #CA, agricultural pollution is the PRIMARY source of water pollution. Over 1 million people do not have access to clean water, while @GavinNewsom and the

@CAWaterBoards continue to prioritize corporations over communities. This is not how you #ValueWater.

Why is it that almond farmers receive a TON of clean water, yet farmworkers, Tribes, and communities living and working in these areas do not have access to clean water themselves? @GavinNewsom @CAWaterBoards this is #EnvironmentalInjustice.
#ValueWater

More people don't have access to clean water in the #CentralValley than in #Flint. Millions in #CA receive water that is polluted by corporate agricultural interests. Toxic chemicals are in our drinking water. Many do not have access to water at all.
#ValueWater @GavinNewsom

#ADayWithoutWater will be our future, everyday, unless we address #ClimateChange and hold companies accountable for using huge amounts of water for unsustainable industries and for contaminating drinking and ground water. #ValueWater
@GavinNewsom @CAWaterBoards

GRAPHICS to post to Social Media:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEEiGHIwdE/bV58fIOhOHR4h5uGmRzEA/view?utm_content=DAEEiGHIwdE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton