



### **About the San Joaquin Valley Clean Water Advocates**

The San Joaquin Valley Clean Water Advocates (Power, Equity and Clean Water Collective) is an effort to cultivate community power and develop long-term water sector capacity for frontline environmental justice communities. Years of grassroots organizing and policy advocacy have led to major successes in the fight for safe and affordable drinking water - including historic laws passed to regulate groundwater usage (which 85% of Californians, or 33 million people, rely on for drinking and daily use and is often the sole source of drinking water for small, rural and underserved communities) and fund infrastructure and drinking water investments specifically for communities without access to safe and affordable drinking water. This effort increases investments in 501(c)(3) organizations, informal/formal community associations, as well as individual community members to fully realize the Human Right to Water in California's San Joaquin Valley through resourcing local advocates and leaders to engage in and influence water policy and resource deployment.

### **Priorities**

- Respond to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) - <https://bit.ly/3D9m7MO> - and work to ensure equitable passage and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that protect vulnerable communities from disproportionate negative impacts of groundwater under extraction and drought.
- Work to ensure effective implementation of SB 200 - <https://bit.ly/39bQrv2> - the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, with the goal of the most vulnerable communities securing their fair share of SB 200 funding, which can include technical assistance, emergency resources like bottled water, or long-term funding for drinking water infrastructure projects.
- Work to advance health and racial equity and power building through authentic community engagement, mobilization, and grassroots leadership development.

### **Key Highlights**

- **Lack of approval of eight inadequate San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs):** Due to this group's steadfast advocacy efforts navigating and pushing back on these technical processes that are often difficult to access and dominated by the agricultural industry, the state is asking Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to further analyze potential impacts to drinking water users and prevent and/or mitigate such impacts unless they can justify why they should not be considered. GSAs will likely be expected to prevent or mitigate impacts to any affected wells.
- **Drought Tour & Executive Order on Ag Wells:**
  - In April 2022, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to protect local groundwater supplies during the state's worsening drought emergency. This order came just weeks after the San Joaquin Valley Clean Water Advocates hosted top state water management officials on a tour of overburdened communities in the San Joaquin Valley.
  - As a result of the Order, new agricultural well permits will be required to demonstrate how new wells will not remove more water from already-stressed aquifers than can be replaced. The goals are to reduce impacts on already drought-stressed communities and ensure long-term sustainability of groundwater for future generations of diverse users.
- **Water Investments in Governor's May Revised Budget:**
  - \$1.3 billion for drought response and planning. Experts are calling this the worst drought in 1,200 years.
  - \$200 million allocation for the Low-income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which distributes crisis funding.

### **Anchor Organizations**

The Anchor Organizations consist of Self-Help Enterprises ([www.selfhelpenterprises.org/](http://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/)), Community Water Center ([www.communitywatercenter.org/](http://www.communitywatercenter.org/)), and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability ([www.leadershipcounsel.org](http://www.leadershipcounsel.org)). The organizations have expertise in community engagement and advocacy

around SGMA, SAFER, and other local, regional, and statewide efforts to ensure underserved communities are included in planning and decision-making processes. The Anchor Organizations are building capacity and providing knowledge transfer to the 501(c)(3) organizations, informal and formal community associations, and community members through quarterly trainings. Thus far, these trainings have included the topics “Meeting Preparation and Effective Participation” and “Drinking Water Mitigation Program & Water Data Resources.”

### **Supporting Organizations, Community Associations and Residents**

Through this effort, 501(c)(3) organizations, informal and formal community associations received grants to support their engagement in SGMA and SAFER. Additionally, \$500 stipends were provided to support community resident participation in SAFER and SGMA efforts.

### **Organizations and Community Associations:**

- Cantua Creek and El Porvenir
- Community United and Lanare
- Fairmead Community and Friends - [www.fairmead.org/](http://www.fairmead.org/)
- Central California Environmental Justice Network - <https://ccejn.org/>
- AGUA Coalition - [www.aguacoalition.org/](http://www.aguacoalition.org/)
- Madera Coalition for Community Justice - [www.maderaccj.org/](http://www.maderaccj.org/)
- Dolores Huerta Foundation - <https://doloreshuerta.org/>
- Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment - <https://crpe-ej.org/>

### **Stipend Recipients:**

- **Maria Luisa Munoz** (Visalia), SAFER Advisory Committee
- **Everett McGhee** (Fuller Acres), Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company, SAFER Advisory Committee
- **Jim Maciel** (Armona), Armona Community Services District, active in Mid-Kings River GSA meetings
- **Kayode Kadara** (Allensworth), Allensworth Progressive Association, active in Tri-County GSA meetings
- **Denise Kadara** (Allensworth), Allensworth Progressive Association, active in Tri-County GSA meetings
- **Sherri Hunter** (Allensworth), President of Allensworth Community Service District, active in Tri-County GSA meeting
- **Sandi McElhenney** (Lebec), Krista Mutual Water Company Board President, active in Castac Lake GSA meeting
- **Jesse Arellano** (Ivanhoe), Ivanhoe Community Council, active in local water meetings
- **Elena Saldivar** (Pixley), active in SAFER and previously on the SAFER Advisory Committee
- **Blanca Lozano** (Delhi), active in West Turlock GSA meetings
- **Hayde Sanchez** (Delhi), active in West Turlock GSA meetings
- **Joseph Castillo** (Delhi), active in West Turlock GSA meetings
- **David Rodriguez** (Planada), active in Merced GSA meetings
- **Esmeralda Garcia** (Ivanhoe), active in Greater Kaweah GSA meetings
- **Eduwiges Aguayo** (La Vina), active in Madera GSA meetings
- **Ascencion Aguayo** (La Vina), active in Madera GSA meetings
- **Carlos Ramirez** (Lamont), active in Kern River GSA meetings
- **Jovita Torres** (Tombstone), active in Central Kings GSA meetings
- **Carolina Garcia** (Tombstone), active in Central Kings GSA meetings
- **Anita Torres** (Tombstone), active in Central Kings GSA meetings
- **Celestina Garcia** (Tombstone), active in Central Kings GSA meetings