

## State of Change

Your California Newsletter



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Wash your hands for 20 seconds. We've all heard this refrain to protect us against COVID-19. But what if your home doesn't have running water?

There are at least one million people in California without access to water clean enough to drink or bathe in. That's more people than live in San Francisco! Sadly, the problem disproportionately impacts communities of color.

The San Joaquin Valley is a global source of food production, and for communities in the region, the vast majority of drinking water comes from underground. But the San Joaquin's precious groundwater is threatened by over-pumping and contamination. Not only does this cause problems for people, 52% of the groundwater-dependent plants and animals in the Central Valley have been destroyed.

Recognizing these challenges, TNC worked to pass the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014, requiring local agencies to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2042.

This year, we partnered with environmental justice organizations to analyze how well local agencies addressed the groundwater needs of nature, as well as disadvantaged communities. Because many community wells rely on the same shallow groundwater that supports ecosystems, saving groundwater for nature means saving it for people too.

Directly



**Sarah Malsam**  
Associate Director, California Water Program

### CALIFORNIA FEATURES



#### A goodbye to Haey Johnson, life-long environmental advocate

Last week, the environmental community lost one of its most committed advocates. Haey Johnson, former TNC Western Regional Director and California Natural Resources Secretary passed away at 87.

[Read Haey's Obituary](#)



#### Dangermond Preserve goes digital

We might be social distancing, but you can still stay connected to the groundbreaking science and unprecedented beauty at the Dangermond Preserve.

[See the Preserve Flow](#)



© Photographer's Name

#### Guess who's protecting Navarro River salmon? Winemakers!

When people and salmon have to fight over water, people usually win. We know it doesn't need to be that way. Our water team is helping winemakers along the Navarro River change when and how they use river water, so salmon can thrive and grapes can grow.

[See their work](#)



#### Find your favorite TNC webinars here!

We've just concluded the second session of our Determining Decade Webinar Series, but that doesn't mean you have to miss it.

[Catch up on this behind-the-scenes look](#)

### TNC IN THE NEWS



#### Where the river meets the sea

California features an up-ed by Joannette Howard, Director of Science for the California Water Team, on the importance of the freshwater that flows from the Delta into the San Francisco Bay.

[Read more from Joannette Howard](#)



#### A historic acquisition

We're not the only ones obsessed with Frog Lake and Carpenter Wasp! The Sacramento Bee features our own Ed Smith, Senior Forest Ecologist, on the importance of connecting the Bee's territories.

[Read the feature](#)

Looking for ways to get involved? Please contact us at [usa@tnc.org](mailto:usa@tnc.org)



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