UCSB Environmental Studies Presents
The 2022 Darcy Aston Memorial Lecture on Water Sustainability

Securing the Human Right to Clean Water for All Californians

By Susana De Anda, Executive Director & Co-Founder
Community Water Center/El Centro Comunitario Por El Agua

This is the 7th in a series of annual lecturers given in memory of Darcy Aston, 1981 UCSB Environmental Studies Alum and beloved member of the Santa Barbara Community.
The 2022 Darcy Aston Memorial Lecture on Water Sustainability:
SECURING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

Susana De Anda, Executive Director & Co-Founder
My water journey with Darcy Aston

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The Ocean Begins on Your Street

Protect our creeks and ocean
Take care of hazardous household chemicals

Help Prevent Pollution of Creek and Ocean
Our Mission
Act as a catalyst for community water solutions through organizing, education and advocacy in California.

Our Vision
Ensure that ALL Californians have access to safe, clean and affordable water.
Over one million Californians are exposed to unsafe drinking water each year.
More than 1 million Californians impacted by unsafe drinking water each year
Living without a drop of safe water to drink
Many residents spend up to 10% of their household income on drinking water.

Pacific Institute 2011
Arsenic and nitrate drinking water contamination disproportionately impacts low-income and Latino communities. Balazs et al. 2011
Got Nitrates?
E-orosi Water.
500,000 Californians lost their drinking water in 2019 because of water shutoffs.

1.6 million households in CA — 5 million Californians are behind on their water bills.

$1 billion dollars — household water debt in California.

Brown and Black communities are disproportionately impacted by water debt.

130 small water systems may fail in the next 6 months.
Securing the Human Right to Water

- Reliable Access to Safe, Clean & Affordable Drinking Water
- Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Solutions
- Sustainable Groundwater
- Community Power & Engaged Leadership
Human Right to Water Act (2012)

“Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”
We shape the California we want to live in.
Key Takeaways

• Water is a basic human right, not a privilege.
• Consideration of the Human Right to Water should be at the forefront of project development and policy, not an aside.
• Community leadership and engagement is vital.
• Partnerships and coalition are critical.
• Stay connected and join our social platforms and listserv!
• Consider joining our team

https://www.communitywatercenter.org/careers

www.communitywatercenter.org
THANK YOU

... Because clean water is a human right, not a privilege.

www.communitywatercenter.org