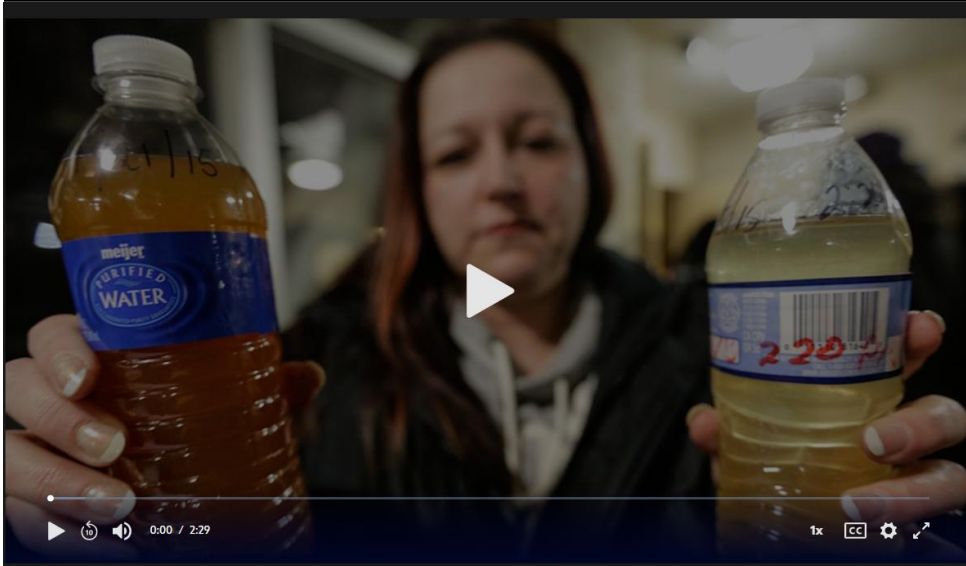


## Group 1. The Flint water crisis

**Document 1.** LeeAnne Walters, of Flint, Michigan, helped save the city from a lead water crisis. May 23rd 2017. PBS.

[This Woman Helped Save Flint | NOVA | PBS](#)



**Document 2.** The city of Flint, Michigan (U.S.A)



### **Document 3. Flint water crisis: everything you need to know.**

In the mid-20th century, Flint—the birthplace of General Motors—was the flourishing home to nearly 200,000 people, many employed by the automobile industry.

But the 1980s put the brakes on that period of prosperity, as rising oil prices and auto imports resulted in shuttered auto plants. The city found itself in a precipitous decline: Flint's population plummeted to just 100,000 people, a majority of whom are Black, and about one-third of its residents live below the poverty line.

In 2011, Flint, was facing a \$25 million deficit, and fell under state control. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed an emergency manager (basically an unelected official chosen to set local policy) to oversee and cut city costs.

This precipitated the tragic decision in 2013 to end the city's five-decade practice of piping treated water for its residents from Detroit in favor of a cheaper alternative: temporarily pumping water from the Flint River.

In October 2014, General Motors recognized the Flint water was corroding its engines. They got permission from the city's emergency manager to disconnect from Flint's water and go back to Detroit water. It would be another year before the people of Flint were finally allowed to disconnect from the corrosive Flint River as their water supply and hook up again to the Detroit water system. By then, the Flint River water had corroded the city's aging pipes, poisoning the drinking water with lead, which can cause permanent developmental delays and neurological impairment, especially in children.

NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. [www.nrdc.com](http://www.nrdc.com)

## **Group 2. First nations water crisis in Canada**

**Document 1. 28 First Nations communities still under boil water advisories, Global News, March 22, 2023.**

[‘We have to fix it faster’: 28 First Nations communities still under boil water advisories - Winnipeg | Globalnews.ca](#)



**Document 2. About drinking water advisories, Government of Canada, September 18th 2025.**

### **What are drinking water advisories?**

Drinking water advisories are issued to warn people that water may be unsafe to drink or use.

Drinking water advisories can be:

- short-term: are in effect for less than 1 year
- long-term: are in effect for more than 1 year

Drinking water advisories can affect:

- 1 building
- part of or a whole community

## **Types of advisories.**

There are 3 types of drinking water advisories:

### **1. Boil water advisory**

Boil water advisories are issued when:

- there are problems with the water treatment system such as chlorine levels that are too low
- water test results confirm the presence of disease-causing:
  - viruses
  - bacteria
  - parasites

### **2. Do not consume advisory**

Do not consume advisories are also called **do not drink** advisories. Do not consume advisories are issued when the water system has contaminants that can't be removed from the water by boiling.

Under a do not consume advisory, users should:

- **Not** use their tap water for:
  - drinking
  - cooking
  - making juice, drinks or infant formula
  - brushing teeth or cleaning dental appliances like retainers or dentures
  - washing fruit and vegetables
  - making soup, tea or coffee
  - making ice cubes

### **3. Do not use advisories**

Do not use advisories warn the public they should not use tap water for any purpose. A do not use advisory is issued when:

- using the water poses a health risk
- the water system has pollutants that can't be removed through boiling

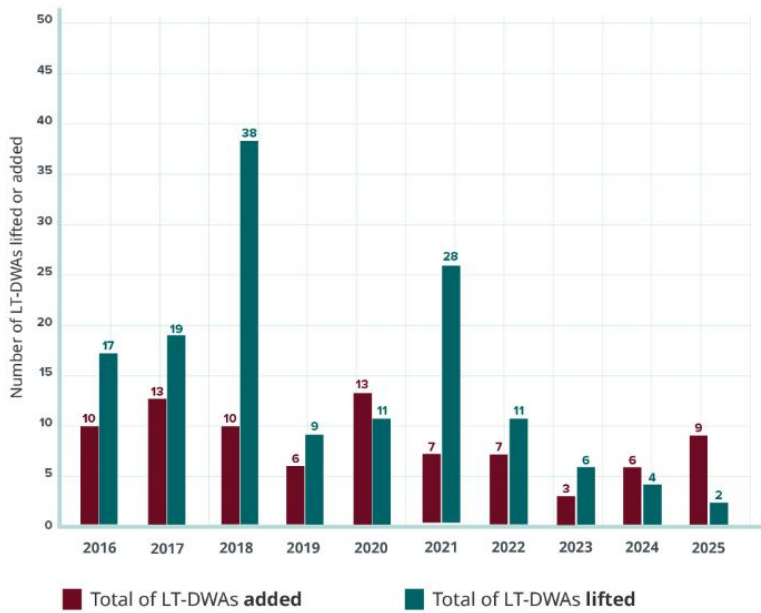
- being exposed to the water through bathing could, perhaps due to a chemical spill, irritate the skin, eyes or nose

**Document 3.** Ending long term drinking water advisories, Government of Canada, November 18th 2025



**149**  
long-term drinking water advisories  
**lifted** since  
November 2015

**38** long-term drinking water advisories  
**in effect in**  
**36** communities



## **Group 3. California water wars**

**Document 1.** Farmers « furious » at Trump's California reservoir water release plan, ABC News, February 5th, 2025.

[Farmers 'furious' at Trump's California reservoir water release plan](#)



**Document 2.** California cracks down on water theft but spares data centers from disclosing how much they use, The L.A Times, October, 14th 2025.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has vetoed legislation that would have required data centers to report how much water they use. New data centers have been rapidly proliferating in California and other western states as the rise of artificial intelligence and growing investments in cloud computing drive a construction boom. The centers, full of equipment, generate lots of heat and can use large quantities of water to cool their servers and interiors. Many companies don't reveal how much they use.

Assembly Bill 93, introduced by Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo), would have required new data centers to disclose their expected water use when they apply for a business license and would have required all to report their water consumption annually.

In a message explaining his decision Saturday, Newsom said the widespread adoption of AI “is driving an unprecedented demand for data center capacity throughout the nation.”

“As the global epicenter of the technology sector, California is well positioned to support the development of this critically important digital infrastructure in the state,” Newsom wrote. “I am reluctant to impose rigid reporting requirements about operational details on this sector without understanding the full impact on businesses and the consumers of their technology.”

The bill was opposed by business groups including the Data Center Coalition.

Much of the data center construction boom is taking place in arid states, including California, Arizona and Texas, where strains on water have been mounting amid dry conditions and rising temperatures.

Papan said the bill was "a reasonable, transparent approach to understanding and managing the massive water demand driven by AI," and that she will keep trying to "strike the right balance between technological innovation and sustainable resource management.”

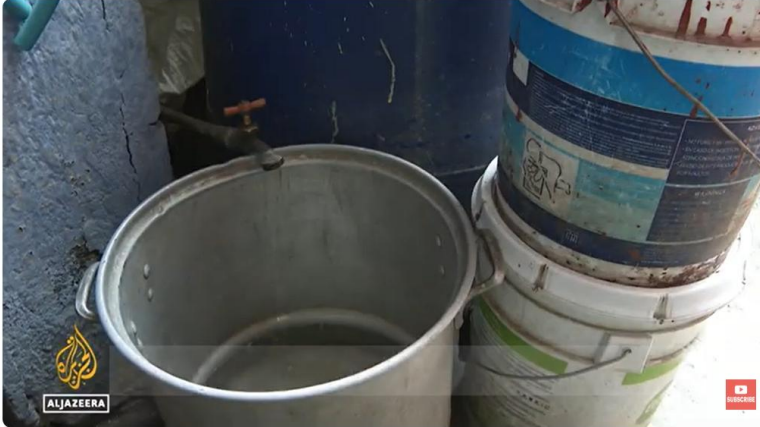
**Document 3. The low water level on the Colorado River is noticeable behind Hoover Dam, 2023.**



## Group 4. Water shortages in Mexico

**Document 1. Mexico water crisis.** Residents struggle with severe water shortages. Al Jazeera, April 1st 2024.

[Crise de l'eau au Mexique : les habitants font face à de graves pénuries d'eau](#)



**Document 2.** Water scarcity in Mexico is intensifying. America Quarterly, November 14th, 2023.

[Mexico's Water Crisis Is Spilling Over Into Politics](#)

### **AQ** Water scarcity in Mexico is intensifying

The number of states highly exposed to water stress may increase from 11 to 20 by 2050.

- LOW EXPOSURE
- MODERATE EXPOSURE
- HIGH EXPOSURE



SOURCE: S&P GLOBAL RATINGS  
NOTE: ANALYSIS BASED ON A MODERATE-STRESS SCENARIO.

**Document 3. Low access to drinkable water for indigenous people in Mexico's wettest region.**

Chiapas, the southernmost region of Mexico, faces a paradoxical crisis. The region has the highest renewable water resources per capita in the entire country. Yet, tap water is almost never safe to drink.

Chiapas houses a little more than 5 million people, half of which live in rural areas where they have almost no access to clean, safe, drinking water. To this day, people need to fetch water from springs miles away from their homes. The amount of water they can physically carry back home is between 20 and 50 litres a day. This is a very small quantity for families to meet their daily needs.

In comparison, statistics from the Canadian government show that the average Canadian consumes up to 400 litres of water a day, 8 to 20 times more than a whole family's consumption in Chiapas.

In the summer of 2022, Monterrey, one of the wealthiest and largest cities in Mexico but also one of the few cities blessed with safe, drinkable tap water, ran out of surface water. Officials rationed and distributed the water only a few hours a day. Within two months, the government invested 10,000 million pesos (6-700 million Canadian dollars) to build a dam and an aqueduct to bring water to Monterrey. This was one of the largest investments on water in the past decade.

"Within one year, the federal government provided Monterrey with the equivalent of one hundred years of funding to Chiapas." Reygadas said.

Ciara Balhi, *The Upstream journal*, February, 26th, 2025.