

California drinking water tax dies

By Dale Kasler and Adam Ashton, Sacramento Bee

A proposed tax on California's drinking water, designed to clean up contaminated water for thousands of Californians, was abandoned by Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders Friday as part of the compromise on the state budget.

Lawmakers and Brown's office scrapped the "Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act," which would have taxed residents 95 cents a month to raise millions for cleaning toxic wells. Instead, legislative leaders agreed to spend \$5 million from the general fund to deal with lead in drinking water at child care centers. They also plan to allocate \$23.5 million from the general fund for "safe drinking water actions later in this legislative session," according to a Legislative Budget Conference Committee report released Friday.

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