



# 2016 Public Water System Report on Public Health Goals

Public Utilities Board  
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## What are public health goals (PHGs)?

- Non-enforceable contaminant levels
  - Theoretical
  - Zero risk
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - California EPA
- Unique to California

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## PHG Development

- Long term animal laboratory studies
- Extrapolate to zero impact
  - Often controversial

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## Compliance

- California Health and Safety Code Section 116470 (b,c)
  - Three year cycle
  - Report any contaminant exceeding PHG
  - Estimate costs to meet PHG
  - Hold public hearing and respond to comments

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## PHG vs. MCL

- Public Health Goal (PHG)
  - Theoretical level (perfect world)
  - Unenforceable
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
  - Enforceable
  - Realistic expectation balancing costs versus risk
  - Higher than PHG (still safe)

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## Riverside's Report

- Reporting period: 2013-2015
- Six constituents exceed PHG
  - Arsenic
  - Gross Alpha
  - Uranium
  - Hexavalent Chromium
  - Coliform Bacteria
  - Copper
- None exceeded MCL

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## Treatment Cost estimates

Constituent	Cost per Customer per Year
Arsenic	\$900
Gross Alpha	\$760-\$3023
Uranium	\$900
Hexavalent Chromium	\$715-\$900

- Treatment method was determined by using the best available treatment technology as determined by the DDW.
- Treatment costs provided by the Association of California Water Agencies

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## Conclusions

- Drinking water in compliance with MCL expose customers to a small level of risk
- Meeting PHG is expensive
- No large public water system is expected to meet all PHGs and MCLGs

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## Recommendation

- Recommend that the Board of Public Utilities conduct a public hearing for review of the 2016 report on Public Health Goals

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