



2025 PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM REPORT ON PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

Public Utilities – Water Division

City Council
September 16, 2025

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BACKGROUND

1. California Health & Safety Code Sections 116470 (b)-(f) require public water systems serving over 10,000 service connections that exceed one or more Public Health Goals (PHGs) to prepare and present a report every three years.
2. On July 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. a public hearing was held during the normally scheduled City of Riverside Board of Public Utilities Meeting. No comments were received from the public.



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DISCUSSION

1. Public Health Goals
 - a) Non-enforceable contaminant levels
 - i. Theoretical
 - ii. Zero risk
2. Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - a) California EPA
3. Unique to California



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PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

1. Development
 - a) Long term animal laboratory studies
 - b) Extrapolate to zero impact
 - i. Often controversial
2. Compliance
 - a) Report any detected contaminant that exceeds the PHG
 - b) Estimate costs to treat to the PHG
 - c) Hold public hearing



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PHG VS. MCL

1. Public Health Goal
 - a) Theoretical level (perfect world)
 - b) Unenforceable
2. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
 - a) Enforceable
 - b) Balances cost vs. Risk



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RPU'S REPORT

1. Reporting Period: 2022-2024
2. Seven constituents exceed PHGs
 - a) Arsenic
 - b) Chromium, Hexavalent
 - c) Gross Alpha Particle Activity
 - d) Nickel
 - e) Perchlorate
 - f) Uranium
 - g) Copper (at the tap)
3. None exceeded MCL



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TREATMENT COST ESTIMATES

Constituent	Cost per Customer per Year
Arsenic	\$245 - \$802
Chromium, Hexavalent	\$835 - \$3,293
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	\$835 - \$3,293
Nickel	\$835 - \$3,293
Perchlorate	\$142 - \$464
Uranium	\$245 - \$802
Copper (at the tap)	No estimate

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



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CONCLUSIONS

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



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council adopt the public water system report on Public Health Goals (PHG) as required under California Health and Safety Code Section 116470(c).



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