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## Water Quality

### Table Definitions

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**PHGs and MCLGs:** Non-mandatory goals based solely on public health considerations using the most recent scientific research available. When these goals are set, the technological and economic feasibility of reaching these goals is not considered.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically or technologically feasible.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards:** Secondary MCLs are set for contaminants that affect the odor, taste or appearance of water.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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