

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: DECEMBER 17, 2013

PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL REPORT

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Field Services Division

COMMENT: SB 1307 added new provisions to the California Health and Safety Code specifying that larger (>10,000 service connections) water utilities prepare a special report if their water quality measurements have exceeded any Public Health Goals (PHGs). Established by the Cal-EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), PHGs are non-enforceable standards, and no action to meet them is mandated. The law also requires that where OEHHA has not adopted a PHG for a constituent, the water suppliers are to use the maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) adopted by US EPA. A public hearing is required for the purpose of accepting and responding to public comment on the report.

The attached report is intended to provide information to the public in addition to the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to each customer in June. The City of Porterville's water system complies with all of the health-based drinking water standards and maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) required by the California Department of Health Services and the US EPA.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the Public Health Goal Report.

ATTACHMENT: City of Porterville Public Health Goal Report

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Dir Bor Appropriated/Funded N/A CM J

Item No. 10

CITY OF PORTERVILLE PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL REPORT

The California Health and Safety Code Section 116470(b), (c) and (f) specifies that on July 1, 1998, and every three years thereafter, public water systems serving more than 10,000 service connections shall prepare a report intended to inform the public concerning any Public Health Goal (PHG) that is exceeded.

PHGs are set by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) which is part of Cal-EPA and are based solely on public health risk considerations. None of the practical risk-management factors that are considered by the USEPA or the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) in setting drinking water standards (MCLs) are considered in setting PHGs. These factors include analytical detection capability, treatment technology available, benefits and costs. The PHGs are not enforceable and are not required to be met by any public water system. MCLGs are the federal equivalent to PHGs.

The following constituent was detected in the city of Porterville drinking water sources at levels above the PHG, or if no PHG, above the MCLG:

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE): The PHG for PCE is 0.06 ppb, with a MCL of 5 ppb. Detection levels in 6 wells range from 0 to 3.8 ppb. **These levels were below the MCL at all times.** The category of health risk associated with PCE is that people who drink water containing PCE **above** the MCL throughout their lifetime could experience liver problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. CDHS says that "Drinking water which meets the MCL is associated with little to none of this risk and should be considered safe with respect to PCE." The numerical health risk for a PHG of .06 ppb is 1 in 1,000,000. The numerical health risk for a MCL of 5 ppb is 8 in 100,000.

Definitions:

Public Health Goals (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.

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 and technologically possible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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

ppb: Parts per billion