Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report

August 19, 2025

Historical Basis & Policy

- Safe Drinking Water Act 1996 (Calderon-Sher) – amended 1999
  - Cal-Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) establish Public Health Goals
  - Public Health Goals are not regulatory standards
  - Public Health Goals not based on technology or cost
  - Prepare report every 3 years

Public Health Goal Report

- Identify type and levels of contaminants detected
- Determine Best Available Treatment options; if necessary
- Estimate cost to reduce or remove each contaminant from water supply
- Make recommendations if needed
- Review PHG report in public forum

2022 – 2024 Data Analysis

Public Health Goals (PHG) – Concentrations of drinking water contaminants that pose no significant health risks with lifetime of consumption

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – Legally enforceable standards for contaminants in drinking water based on health risks, detectability, treatability, and cost of treatment.

Chemical	Range Detected in Fullerton	PHG	MCL
Coliform - %	0 – 0.5%	None	5
Tetrachlorethylene (PCE) – ppb	0.9 – 1.9	0.06	5.0
Uranium – pCi/L	1.29 – 7.33	0.43	20
Perchlorate – ppb	<1 – 2.5	1.0	6.0
Arsenic – ppb	<2 – 7.4	0.004	10
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) – ppt	5.0 – 15.1	1.0	None*
Perfluorooctanic Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) – ppt	7.1 – 34.9	0.007	None*

Note* - The EPA adopted an MCL in April 2024 that will go into effect in April 2029

Staff Recommendations

- Received and File Report.

NOTE: Future treatment plants for PFAS may help remove additional contaminants

Questions?

The Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report is available on the City website.

Residents may request a physical copy of the Public Health Goals Report or the Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report:

714-738-2835

waterquality@cityoffullerton.com

Reference: Coliform

- PHG = 0%; MCL = 5%
- Maximum level detected in Fullerton during any month: 0.5%
- Category of risk = pathogen
- Cancer risk - None
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Chlorination
  - Cross-Connection Program
  - Positive system pressure
  - These BATs are already in place, no additional
  - cost to customers
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)

- PHG = 0.6 ng/L; MCL = 5 ng/L
- Range Detected in Fullerton: 0.9 TO 1.9 ng/L
- Category of risk = carcinogen
- Cancer risk
  - @ PHG = one in a million
  - @ MCL = eight in one hundred thousand
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) & Packed Aeration Tower
  - $847,366.82-$1,603,478.80/Year to reduce at or below the PHG ($26.69-$50.50/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Uranium

- PHG = 0.43 pCi/L; MCL = 20 pCi/L
- Range Detected in Fullerton: 1.29 to 7.33 pCi/L
- Category of risk = carcinogen
- Cancer risk
  - @ PHG = one in a million
  - @ MCL = five in one hundred thousand
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Ion Exchange/Water Softening treatment
  - $2,211,617.27/Year to reduce level at or below the PHG ($69.66/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Perchlorate

- PHG = 1.0 ppb MCL = 6.0 ppb
- Range Detected in Fullerton: <1 to 2.5 pCi/L
- Category of risk = Endocrine toxicity
- Cancer risk
  - @ PHG = one in a million
  - @ MCL = three in ten thousand
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Ion Exchange/Water Softening treatment
  - $2,611,818.09/Year to reduce level at or below the PHG ($82.26/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Arsenic

- PHG = 0.004 ppb MCL = 10 ppb
- Range Detected in Fullerton: <2.0 to 7.4 ppb
- Category of risk = carcinogen
- Cancer risk
- @ PHG = one in a million
- @ MCL = 2.5 in 1,000
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Ion Exchange/Water Softening treatment
  - $2,107,629.72/Year to reduce to below or at PHG ($66.38/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

- PHG = .007 ng/L
- Range Detected in Fullerton: 5 to 15.1 ng/L
- Category of risk = carcinogen
- Cancer risk
  - @ PHG = one in a million
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Ion Exchange/ Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)
  - $4,821,415.00-$13,396,473.00/Year to reduce level at or below PHG ($151.86-$421.95/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none

Reference: Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)

- PHG = 1 ng/L
- Range Detected in Fullerton: 7.1 to 34.9 ng/L
- Category of risk = carcinogen
- Cancer risk
  - @ PHG = one in a million
- Best Available Treatment (BAT)
  - Ion Exchange/ Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)
  - $4,821,415.00-$13,396,473.00/Year to reduce level at or below PHG ($151.86-$421.95/Year per customer)
- Actions recommended - none