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INFORMATIONAL BOARD LETTER



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Gregory Reed (May 21, 2025 10:12 PDT)

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**DATE:** May 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report

The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 introduced Public Health Goals (PHGs) to the California Code of Regulations and required the preparation of a PHG Report once every three years. The objective of the PHG Report is to provide consumers with information on relative risks and comparison to theoretical zero-risk levels. The PHG Report must be made available for public review. It will be posted on the LADWP's website under the Water Quality section. Inclusion of this Report as a Filed Item on a Board agenda is part of this public review process.

State PHGs and Federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) are non-enforceable goals. They are estimated levels of contaminants in drinking water where it is expected that there is zero health risk to any individual. The State PHGs are established by researchers from the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). PHGs and drinking water standards are both protective of public health and include factors of safety. However, PHGs are more conservative and are a theoretical zero-risk level.

The PHG Report documents the constituents in the drinking water supplied by LADWP that were measured above their respective State PHG or Federal MCLG during calendar years 2022 to 2024. Extensive testing and data analysis reveal that LADWP meets the vast majority of the PHGs. This is the result of multiple barrier treatment and protection of source waters by LADWP. However, there is a small group of nine (9) constituents that were detected and measured at levels above the respective PHG or MCLG.

The Report discusses these constituents and the associated health risks in more detail. The Report also identifies three important findings on PHGs:

1. There may be no established or scalable treatment method to achieve all of the PHGs or MCLGs.
2. There would be significant costs, space requirements, and resources to build and operate additional water treatment facilities needed to further reduce contaminant levels below each PHG or MCLG. LADWP estimates it would require an additional \$1.3 billion in capital investments and \$186 million in annual operations and maintenance costs.
3. There are significant tradeoffs to the additional treatment, such as high energy usage, chemical usage, and water loss.

The PHG Report will inform ongoing strategic planning in the Water System and public engagement on water quality health goals.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- 2025 Public Health Goals Report