

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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November 10, 1998

**ALL COMMUNITY AND NONTRANSIENT-NONCOMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS****SUBJECT: 1999 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Since 1990, community and nontransient-noncommunity water systems in California have been providing an Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) to customers under regulations adopted in 1989. However, the 1996 Amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and recently adopted federal regulations require a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and state that community water systems must distribute this report to customers by October 19, 1999. In addition, California law (Health and Safety Code Section 116470) now requires a similar CCR with several new requirements including the listing of the public health goal (PHG) for each detected chemical contaminant, a definition of terms, information on violations and a statement about the health concerns of detected contaminants.

Since California has not adopted the new federal CCR regulations nor incorporated the state statutory requirements into regulation, many water systems have expressed uncertainty as to how to proceed with their 1999 report. The following are questions that have been frequently asked:

- What kind of report will be required? An AWQR or a CCR?
- By what date must the report be distributed?
- Should PHGs that have been adopted be listed for detected chemical contaminants, and federal maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) be used for detected chemical contaminants for which PHGs have not been adopted?
- Should the definitions in state statute be included? If so, what wording should be used?

The purpose of this memo is to answer these questions:

Because most states will not be able to develop the CCR regulations in time to enforce the CCR requirements by the October, 1999 deadline, EPA is entering into agreements with the States that will set forth the conditions for implementing the CCR requirements. These agreements can be state specific depending on the circumstances within the state. Since California already requires annual notification of customers through the Annual Water Quality Report, EPA-Region IX has agreed to allow California to meet the spirit of the federal law by allowing systems to continue to distribute the AWQR under existing state regulations and guidance, *with the provision that the utilities be notified that **to the extent possible**, they should incorporate the additional information required under Federal CCR requirements into their AWQRs.* This memo serves as that notification.

The attached table provides a comparison of current requirements under California law with those in the Federal law. A community water system which incorporates the federal requirements must do so consistent with federal regulations and include information on any detected contaminant with a secondary MCL. However, there are some provisions of the federal requirements relating to form and content which can be changed by the state as long as the reports provide the same type and amount of information. We are therefore allowing the following exception to the federal CCR regulations. The federal regulations (CFR 141.153(d)(4)(i) require that the MCLs listed in the report be converted to numbers greater than one. Water systems will not be required to adhere to this provision and can follow the format presently used in the AWQR.

All water systems must distribute the report by April 1, 1999, and must include the following additional elements, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1164(a):

- For any detected chemical contaminant, include the respective PHG adopted as of December 1997, along with the PHG definition;
- In the case of a detected chemical contaminant for which there is no PHG, include the federal MCLG which should be defined using the federal CCR regulation definition; and
- Include the definitions for MCL and primary drinking water standard.

The following table provides the appropriate definition language:

Term	Definition
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.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the PHGs and MCLGs as is economically or technologically feasible.
Primary Drinking Water Standard	Primary MCLs, specific treatment techniques adopted in lieu of primary MCLs, and monitoring and reporting requirements for MCLs that are specified in regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact your district office.

Sincerely,

David P. Spath, Ph.D., P.E., Chief  
Division of Drinking Water and  
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Attachment

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## COMPARISON OF REQUIREMENTS:

### California Annual Water Quality Report vs Federal Consumer Confidence Report

<b>Content</b>	<b>Annual Water Quality Report</b>	<b>Federal Consumer Confidence Report</b>
Source	Group types of sources according to similar characteristics; as a minimum, separate ground and surface waters.	Different columns (or reports) for multiple hydraulically independent distribution systems fed by different raw water sources Identify source(s) in terms of type of water, commonly used name and location of source If a source water assessment has been completed, notify of availability
General info.	Contact person	Contact person, info in other language(s) regarding report importance if needed, info on public meetings
Definitions	-----	MCL and MCLG for all systems; treatment technique and/or action level, if report data involves one of these; exemption, and/or variance, if system has one or both of these
Required reporting	Detected contaminants with primary or secondary MCLs or action levels, nonregulated contaminants for which monitoring is required, minerals	Detected contaminants with primary MCLs, treatment techniques or action levels, unregulated contaminants for which monitoring is required, disinfection byproducts or microbial contaminants (except <i>Cryptosporidium</i> ) for which monitoring is required by the Information Collection Rule
Reporting of levels	MCL and range; average optional	MCL and MCLG, or action level or treatment technique, highest level and range except detailed requirements for reporting of lead/copper data, turbidity and coliforms (see federal rule); averages, if used for compliance purposes
Info. on detections	-----	Specific or typical source of contaminant
Other contaminants	-----	Summary of any radon and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> results that utility has, if suggesting presence in finished water, and explanation of the significance
MCL and treatment technique violations	-----	Identify MCL/treatment technique violations and explain violation, violation length, potential health effects (EPA language), and actions taken
Other violations	-----	Explanation of any other violation, length, potential adverse health effects (EPA language), and actions taken
Variance or exemption	-----	Reasons for variance or exemption, date issued, and status report on steps utility is taking to comply
Additional health info.	-----	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> warning; info on sources of contaminants in drinking water; health effects language for arsenic, nitrate or lead if above trigger level (EPA language for each of these)