

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment**

Notice to Interested Parties

June 29, 2001

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

**PUBLISHING OF
FINAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT
FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL
FOR BENZENE IN DRINKING WATER**

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency announces the availability of the final technical support document for the Public Health Goal (PHG) for benzene in drinking water. The first draft of the document was posted on the OEHHA Web site (www.oehha.ca.gov) on October 8, 1999, and the second draft has been posted on the OEHHA Web site (www.oehha.ca.gov) since February 11, 2000. In addition, a one-day public workshop was held on November 5, 1999, at the auditorium in the Elihu Harris Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, California to discuss the scientific basis and recommendations in the draft document. OEHHA follows the requirements set forth in Health and Safety Code Sections 57003(a) and 116365 for the workshop and public input. Oral and written comments received from the public at the workshop and during the two public review and scientific comment periods, as well as from reviewers at the University of California system and state and federal agencies were considered during revisions of the documents. After the public input and the workshop, OEHHA has incorporated responses to major comments received and is providing the final documents.

The published PHG for benzene is available on the Web site. As indicated in previous announcements, the workshop as well as the public review and scientific comment periods were to encourage a dialogue between OEHHA scientists and the public to discuss the PHG recommendations and to receive comments. Following the workshop and public input, OEHHA has revised the document as appropriate. The responses to the major comments are also available on the OEHHA Web site. This announcement of a PHG for benzene and its technical support document is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register and posted on the OEHHA Web site.

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The PHG technical support document provides information on the health effects of contaminants in drinking water. PHGs are levels of drinking water contaminants at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 (Health and Safety Code Section 116365), amended 1999, requires OEHHA to publish PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations. PHGs published by OEHHA will be considered by the California Department of Health Services in setting drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs).

Printed copies may be obtained for a fee from:

Instant Copying and Laser Printing
2015 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, California 94720

Phone: (510) 704-9700

FAX: (510) 704-9970

If you would like to receive further information on this announcement or have questions, please contact our office at (510) 622-3170 or the address below. Written requests should be addressed to:

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