

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP FOR PROPOSED PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS FOR HALOACETIC ACIDS IN DRINKING WATER

January 31, 2020

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the release of a draft document for public review describing proposed Public Health Goals (PHGs) for the five regulated haloacetic acids (HAAs) found in drinking water as a result of disinfection methods: monochloroacetic acid (MCA), dichloroacetic acid (DCA), trichloroacetic acid (TCA), monobromoacetic acid (MBA), and dibromoacetic acid (DBA).

A PHG is the level of a drinking water contaminant at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996¹ requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations.² PHGs published by OEHHA are considered by the State Water Resources Control Board in setting drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) for California.³

The technical support document, available for [download](#), presents the scientific information available on the toxicity of the HAAs and the calculation of the proposed PHGs. The proposed PHGs of 0.2 parts per billion (ppb) for DCA, 0.1 ppb for TCA, and 0.03 ppb for DBA are based on carcinogenicity and are set at a level of risk of one additional cancer case per one million persons exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The proposed PHGs of 53 ppb for MCA and 25 ppb for MBA are based on noncancer health effects. The draft document also presents health-protective drinking water concentrations for noncancer health effects for DCA, TCA, and DBA.

The public comment period for the draft document begins January 31, 2020 and ends April 1, 2020. The public is encouraged to submit written comments via OEHHA's website, rather than in paper form. Comments may be submitted electronically through the following link: <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>.

Hard-copy comments may be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the address below. Any written comments concerning this draft PHG document, regardless of the form or method of transmission, must be received by the PHG program on April 1, 2020 to be considered.

The Office will hold a public workshop on March 26, 2020 at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California, 95814, Sierra Hearing Room, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or until business is concluded, whichever occurs first. The workshop will be

¹ Codified at Health and Safety Code, section 116270 *et. seq.*

² Health and Safety Code, section 116365(c)

³ Health and Safety Code, section 116365(a) and (b)

webcast, which can be accessed on the day of the workshop at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 57003, the workshop is provided to enable a dialogue between OEHHA scientists and the public to discuss the scientific basis of the proposed PHGs, and to receive comments. After the closure of the public-comment period, OEHHA will submit the draft risk assessment for external scientific peer review.⁴

Following the workshop, public comment period and external scientific peer review, OEHHA will evaluate all the comments received, revise the document as appropriate, and make it available for an additional 30-day public comment period. After any subsequent revisions, the final document will be posted on the OEHHA website along with responses to the external peer review comments and to major comments received at the workshop and during the two public comment periods.

If you would like to receive further information on this announcement or have questions, please contact Hermelinda Jimenez at PHG.Program@oehha.ca.gov or at (916) 324-7572. FAX inquiries or comments can be submitted to (916) 323-2265. Written inquiries can also be addressed to:

Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 4010, MS-12B
Sacramento, California 95812-4010
Attention: PHG Program

⁴ Health and Safety Code section 116365(c)(3)(D)