

**California Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
April 05, 2024**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS FOR  
PERFLUOROOCCTANOIC ACID AND PERFLUOROOCCTANE SULFONIC ACID IN  
DRINKING WATER**

On April 5, 2024, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency adopted and published Public Health Goals (PHGs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in drinking water.

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 1996<sup>1</sup> requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations.<sup>2</sup> PHGs published by OEHHA are considered by the State Water Resources Control Board in setting drinking water regulatory standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) for California.<sup>3</sup>

The technical support document, posted on the OEHHA website (<https://oehha.ca.gov/water>), presents the scientific information available on the toxicity of PFOA and PFOS, and the calculation of the PHGs. A companion document that contains responses to comments from the two public comment periods and the external scientific peer review conducted pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 57004 is also available on the website.

The PHG of 0.007 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA is based on kidney cancer in humans and the PHG of 1 ppt for PFOS is based on liver and pancreatic tumors in laboratory animals. The PHGs are set at a level of risk of one additional cancer case per one million persons exposed over a lifetime. The document also presents health-protective drinking water concentrations for noncancer health effects. The noncancer health-protective concentrations are 3 ppt for PFOA, based on increased risk of liver damage in humans, and 2 ppt for PFOS, based on increased total cholesterol in humans.

If you would like to receive further information on this announcement or have questions, please contact Hermelinda Jimenez at [PHG.Program@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:PHG.Program@oehha.ca.gov) or at (916) 324-7572.

---

<sup>1</sup> Codified at Health & Saf. Code section 116270 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Health & Saf. Code section 116365(c)

<sup>3</sup> Health & Saf. Code sections 116365(a) and 116365(b)