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A Compilation of Water Quality Goals

This [searchable database](#) contains an extensive compendium of numeric water quality thresholds from the literature for over 860 chemical constituents and water quality parameters. Included are:

- [California and Federal Drinking Water Standards \(MCLs\)](#)
- [California Public Health Goals \(PHGs\)](#)
- [California State Notification and Response Levels for Drinking Water](#)
- [Health Advisories, Water Quality Advisories, and Drinking Water Advisories](#)
- [Suggested No-Adverse-Response Levels \(SNARLs\)](#)
- [Cancer Risk Estimates](#)
- [Health-based criteria from USEPA Integrated Risk Information System \(IRIS\)](#)
- [Proposition 65 Safe Harbor Levels](#)
- [California Toxics Rule Criteria to Protect Human Health and Aquatic Life](#)
- [California Ocean Plan Water Quality Objectives](#)
- [USEPA Recommended Criteria to Protect Human Health and Aquatic Life](#)
- [Agricultural Use Protective Limits](#)
- [Taste and Odor Based Criteria](#)

These thresholds may be used to assess whether beneficial uses of surface water or groundwater are likely to be impaired or threatened.

Water Quality Goals is technical information provided by staff of the State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis. It is intended to be used only as an informational tool and does not reflect State Water Board policy or regulation.

The information in the Water Quality Goals database is current as of September 9, 2011.

Water Quality Goals Database - Search

To avoid improper use of the numeric thresholds contained in the database, users are strongly encouraged to carefully review the [Water Quality Goals Staff Report](#).

- [Search Page](#)
- [How to use Water Quality Goals Online](#)

Explanatory Staff Report and Training Videos

- [Water Quality Goals Staff Report](#)
Explains, with examples, how the numeric thresholds in the Water Quality Goals database may be used to assess whether beneficial uses of water resources are impaired or threatened. A summary of relevant statutes, regulations, plans, and policies and links to original references are included.
- [Water Quality Goals Training Videos](#)
Provides basic and essential training on the topic of water quality standards – beneficial uses, water quality objectives, promulgated water quality criteria, water quality control plans and policies that affect allowable concentrations in water. Familiarizes the user with the Water Quality Goals staff report, the searchable online database, four assessment threshold selection algorithms, and how these tools may be used to assess whether beneficial uses of surface water or groundwater are likely to be impaired or threatened. This class was originally given to Water Board staff on July 20, 2011. These presentations work best when viewed full-screen (F-11 key).
 - [Course Agenda](#)
 - [PowerPoint Slides](#)
 - [Video Part 1](#) (1:17:14)
 - [Video Part 2](#) (1:11:42)
 - [Video Part 3](#) (1:00:13)

- [Video Part 4](#) (45:55)
- Online Database Demonstrations
 - [Demo 1](#)
 - [Demo 2](#)

Water Quality-Based Assessment Thresholds

[Assessment Thresholds Table](#) (MS Excel format)

Based on the Assessment Threshold Algorithms in the [Water Quality Goals Staff Report](#), this table presents numeric thresholds recommended to implement selected water quality objectives and promulgated water quality criteria, as well as assessment thresholds recommended to protect specified beneficial uses in groundwater, inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries, and ocean waters.

Data Downloads

The data from the Water Quality Goals database are available for download.

- Tab Delimited Text format (txt) - For import into database or spreadsheet programs
 - [Water Quality Threshold Tables](#) (txt)
 - [Footnotes](#) (txt)
 - [References](#) (txt)
 - [Data Dictionary](#) - A key to field names used in the database tables.

Updates

- Changes made to the Water Quality Goals database during the following intervals:
 - [May to September 2011](#)
 - [April 2010 to May 2011](#)
 - [July 2008 to April 2010](#)
 - [August 2007 to July 2008](#)
 - [August 2003 to August 2007](#)



Receive updates by email regarding changes to the Water Quality Goals database and staff report. Subscribe online to the "[Water Quality Goals](#)" email list.

Questions or Comments about Water Quality Goals?

- Please email [Jon Marshack](#) or phone (916) 341-5514.

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