

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Public Health Goals Program
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: Cal EPA/Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
3. Brief Description of Program: The Program performs human health risk assessments and hazard evaluations of chemical contaminants in drinking water. These activities include developing public health goals for chemical substances in drinking water and providing toxicological assistance for the California Department of Public Health's chemical monitoring activities for the drinking water supply. The program also provides educational information to the public and other governmental agencies on drinking water contamination and drinking water regulatory standards development.
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program: A public health goal (PHG) is a level of 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 (codified as Health and Safety Code, section 116270 et. seq.) requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations (Health and Safety Code section 116365(c)). PHGs published by OEHHA are considered by the California Department of Public Health in setting drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) as required by Health and Safety Code section 116365(a-b).
5. Timeline for Program Objectives: On-going, with review and update of PHGs every five years.
6. Current Status of Program: On-going
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

Name	Dr. Elaine Khan
Title	Chief of the Water Toxicology Section
Phone	(916) 324-1277
Email	Elaine.Khan@oehha.ca.gov

8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: \$1.6 M
9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water.html>
10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program? The risk assessments on which PHGs are based are performed using the most current principles, practices, and methods used by public health professionals who are experienced practitioners in the fields of epidemiology, risk assessment, and toxicology. In fulfilling our mandated reviews of PHGs every five years, we evaluate and incorporate new data as they become available to capture the most current information on human health risk and emerging concerns about contaminants.
11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program: PHGs are advisory but must be used as the health basis to support and update the state's primary drinking water standards (MCLs) set by the California Department of Public Health (Health and Safety Code Section 116365(b)(1)).

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Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.