



# Water Safety



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# Water Safety

- Water
  - The only utility you ingest
- Water Division
  - Health and Safety is an integral part of our Cost-of-Service ratemaking
- Topics
  - Ratemaking
  - Hartwell Decision
  - Water Quality Standards
  - General Order No. 103-A
  - Water Action Plan





# Ratemaking

- Smaller utilities (< 10,000 service connections)
  - WD processes all general rate increase requests
- Thorough System Evaluation
  - Service quality – outages, pressure, complaints
  - Leaks
  - Water treatment
  - Water quality standards
    - Division of Drinking Water - SWRCB
- Larger utilities
  - Water Quality Expert assigned in GRC proceeding
  - Report / Testimony





# Hartwell Decision

- 2002 California Supreme Court Decision
  - *Hartwell Corporation et al v. the Superior Court of Ventura County*
- Findings
  - PU Code 1759 precludes superior court intervention in CPUC official duties.
  - Legislature vested the CPUC with ...powers to ensure the health, safety, and availability of the public's drinking water.
  - CPUC has the authority to enforce water quality standards.
  - CPUC continues to exercise its jurisdiction to regulate drinking water quality.





# Water Quality Standards

- Drinking Water Quality Standards
  - Division of Drinking Water, SWRCB
- Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
  - Primary
    - Federal EPA / Division of Drinking Water
    - 82 contaminants v. 92 contaminants
  - Secondary
    - Title 22 California Code
- Contaminants of interest
  - Arsenic
  - Nitrates
  - Hexavalent Chromium
  - Perchlorate
  - Lead





# Federal & State Safe Drinking Water Act

- The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
  - Adopted 1974
  - Regulates drinking water supply
  - Applies to all Public Water Systems in the US
  
- California Safe Drinking Water Act
  - More stringent water quality requirements and regulations
  - Sets requirements for water quality monitoring and sampling





# Responsible Agencies for Water Safety

US EPA

- Sets national drinking water standards
- Oversees the states' enforcement of SDWA

SWRCB

- Implements federal and state SDWA
- Sets CA drinking water standards
- Monitors compliance with state/federal SDWA

CPUC

- Regulates 100 water utilities
- Ensures clean, safe, and reliable water service
- Water safety integral to cost-of-service ratemaking





## How Can we be Sure our Drinking Water Is Safe?

- The SDWA requires preparation of Consumer Confidence Report
  - Copy provided to each customer annually
  - Copy provided to the SWRCB and CPUC
- Lab Testing
  - Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly
- SWRCB monitors all water quality testing schedules and compliance

Key

CPUC and SWRCB Memorandum of Understanding- Share information and work together on water safety issues







## General Order 103-A

- Standards for the design, construction, location, maintenance and operation of water utilities
  - Water quality and supply
  - System capacity requirements
  - Operation and Maintenance Plan requirements
  - Emergency Response Plans
  - Service and repair standards
  - Pressure standards

Key

Comprehensive General Order covering all aspects of a water utility's infrastructure and service.





# Water Action (Safety) Plan

- First adopted in 2005, updated in 2010
- Principles
  - Safe, high quality water
  - Highly reliable water supplies
  - Efficient use of water
  - Reasonable rates and viable utilities
- Objectives
  - Maintain highest standards of water quality
  - Promote Water infrastructure investment
  - Strengthen water conservation programs
  - Streamline decision making
  - Rates that balance investment, conservation, and affordability
  - Assist low-income ratepayers





## Summary

- Safe drinking water has been and continues to be our top priority.
- Health and safety is an integral part of cost-of-service ratemaking.
- General Order 103-A provides comprehensive rules for ensuring safe and reliable water service.

