Uranium

- Legal Limit (MCL):[a] EPA: 30 µg/L
- Public Health Goal (PHG): 0.5 ppb

Common sources of the contaminant in the Central Valley[b]

Uranium is naturally occurring in some rocks and soil and is weakly radioactive. Uranium can also enter the environment in the production and use of phosphate fertilizers, or from mining and industrial processing activities.

Possible health effects of short-term exposure[c]

- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Liver and kidney damage

Possible health effects of long-term exposure[d]

- Kidney damage
- Liver damage
- Cancer (particularly of the bone and liver)

Sensitive populations[e]

Children and pregnant women may be more at risk.

Pathways of exposure[f]

The primary pathway of exposure is drinking water with high levels of uranium. You also may be exposed by inhaling uranium-contaminated vapor or absorbing uranium-contaminated water through your skin.

Tips for reducing exposure at home

- Avoid showering or washing dishes or food, particularly with hot water.
- Drink bottled water or use a certified treatment device. Pitcher filters, such as Brita, do not remove uranium. A full list of certified filter devices is available at **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/Documents/wtd2017/72ManufacturersDevicesValidasof02212017.pdf**.

COMMUNITY WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

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Uranium References

a. The federal EPA MCL is shown in a unit of mass. The same mass of Uranium may vary in its radioactivity, depending on the isotopes of Uranium.

b. OEHHA (2001), "Public Health Goals for Nickel and Uranium," available at **https://oehha.ca.gov/water/public-health-goal/public-health-goals-nickel-and-uranium** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); WHO (2005) "Uranium in Drinking Water," available at **http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/uranium290605.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).

c. ATSDR (1999), "Toxicological Profile for Uranium, Health Effects," available at **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp150-c2.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); OEHHA (2001), "Public Health Goals for Nickel and Uranium," available at **https://oehha.ca.gov/water/public-health-goal/public-health-goals-nickel-and-uranium** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); WHO (2005) "Uranium in Drinking Water," available at **http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/uranium290605.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).

d. OEHHA (2001), "Public Health Goals for Nickel and Uranium," available at **https://oehha.ca.gov/water/public-health-goal/public-health-goals-nickel-and-uranium** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1999), "Toxicological Profile for Uranium, Health Effects," available at **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp150-c2.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); WHO (2005) "Uranium in Drinking Water," available at **http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/uranium290605.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).

e. ATSDR (1999), "Toxicological Profile for Uranium, Health Effects," available at **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp150-c2.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).

f. OEHHA (2001), "Public Health Goals for Nickel and Uranium," available at **https://oehha.ca.gov/water/public-health-goal/public-health-goals-nickel-and-uranium** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1999), "Toxicological Profile for Uranium, Health Effects," available at **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp150-c2.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); WHO (2005) "Uranium in Drinking Water," available at **http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/uranium290605.pdf** (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).

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