

DWR Water Quality Goals

Constituent	Drinking water standard MCL ¹		Agricultural Goal	U.S. EPA National Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Aquatic Life Protection		
	Primary	Secondary ²		Continuous Conc 4-day average	Maximum Conc 1-hour average	Instantaneous Maximum
Aluminum (Al)	1000	200	5000	87 ³	750 ³	
Arsenic (As)	50		100	190	360	
Boron (B)			750			
Cadmium (Cd)	5		10	0.39 - 1.3 ⁴	0.90 - 5.0 ⁴	
Chromium (total) (Cr)	50					
Copper (Cu)	1300	1000	200	3.7 - 13.6 ⁴	4.8 - 21 ⁴	
Iron (Fe)		300	5000			1,000
Lead (Pb)	15		5000	0.68 - 3.9 ⁴	18 - 100 ⁴	
Manganese (Mn)		50	200			
Mercury (Hg)	2			0.012	2.4	
Nickel (Ni)	100		200	49 - 180 ⁴	440 - 1700 ⁴	
Selenium (Se)	50		20	5	20	
Silver (Ag)		100		0.19	0.37 - 5.5 ⁴	
Zinc (Zn)		5000	2000	32 - 121 ⁴	36 - 133 ⁴	
Alkalinity						>20,000
Ammonia (NH ₃) diss.				0.0017 - 0.029 ⁵	0.019 - 0.21 ⁵	
Conductivity (µmhos/cm)		900	700			
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	1000					
pH		6.5 - 8.5				6.5 - 9.0
Sulfate		250,000				
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)		500,000	450,000			
Turbidity (NTU)	1	5				

All values are in µg/L (ppb) unless otherwise noted

1 U.S. EPA or California Dept. of Health Services Maximum Contaminant Level, whichever is lower

2 Secondary MCLs are derived from human welfare considerations (e.g., taste, odor, etc.)

3 for pH 6.5 - 9.0

4 @ hardnesses <25 - 120 mg/L (CaCO₃)

5 mg/L (as N) for pH 7.0 @ 0°C - pH 8.5 @ 30°C

Source: Gail Kuenster, DWR Water Quality and Biology, Northern District, Red Bluff