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File: Benzene

Chlordane

DBCP

1,3-Dichloropropene

Ethylene Dibromide

Heptachlor Epoxide

Perchloroethylene

Toxaphene

Trichlorethylene

Vinyl Chloride

K-2661-(100)

K-5503-

K-6617-

K-6409-

K-1715-

DR-0118-7833-

K-2521-

K-5944-

K-2520-

K-1711-

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- 728 DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDED PUBLIC HEALTH LEVELS FOR DRINKING WATER IN CALIFORNIA. Y Y Wang, R H Lam, J P Brown, A M Fan, and A M Milea. Calif. Dept. of Health Services, Berkeley, CA.

The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1989 requires the development of recommended public health levels (RPHLs) in addition to maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water contaminants. RPHLs will provide additional health protection for approximately 75% of the State's population. RPHLs are based solely on health effects and MCLs are to be set as close as practical to RPHLs. The Act also requires MCLs to be reviewed every five years after adoption. As of October 1990, 42 MCLs for organics and 11 for inorganics have been promulgated. Initially, 45 RPHLs (38 organics and 7 inorganics) will be proposed. Ten of the RPHLs will be lower than existing MCLs: benzene, chlordane, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,3-dichloropropene, ethylene dibromide, heptachlor epoxide, perchloroethylene (PCE), toxaphene, trichloroethylene (TCE), and vinyl chloride. RPHLs can not be enforced if the chemical can not be detected at that level. Analytical method detection limits (MDLs) need to be at least 5 to 10 times lower than the enforceable levels so that monitoring may be effectively conducted. This paper compares the RPHLs to the MDLs for data gap investigation. A preliminary analysis indicates that among the 10 chemicals, only benzene, PCE, and TCE have methods available with adequate MDLs for monitoring purposes.

