

## BOTTLED WATER INFORMATION STATEMENT

### DEFINITIONS:

- **Statement of quality:** The quality standards of bottled water provide the maximum legal limits for a variety of substances that are allowed in bottled water, along with their monitoring requirements. The substances include microbiological contaminants, pesticides, inorganic contaminants, organic contaminants, radiological contaminants, and others. The standards have been established by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), based on the public drinking water standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). CDPH adopts the FDA regulations pertinent to the quality standards of bottled water.
- **Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** MCL is the maximum level of a contaminant allowed in public drinking water.
- **Primary drinking water standards (PDWS):** PDWS are set to provide the maximum feasible protection to public health. The goal of setting PDWS is to identify MCLs, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, which prevent adverse health effects. PDWS are established as close to the public health goal (PHG) or the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Public health goal (PHG):** PHG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs for the state of California are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

### SOURCE WATER:

The sources of bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water naturally travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can pick up naturally occurring substances as well as substances that are present due to animal and human activity. Substances that may be present in the source water include any of the following:

- (1) Inorganic substances, including, but not limited to, salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from farming, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or oil and gas production.
- (2) Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (3) Organic substances that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- (4) Microbial organisms that may come from wildlife, agricultural livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, and septic systems.
- (5) Substances with radioactive properties that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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### **CONTAMINANTS IN WATER:**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Food and Drug Administration, Food and Cosmetic Hotline (1-888-723-3366). In order to ensure that bottled water is safe to drink, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the State Department of Public Health prescribe laws and regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by bottled water companies.

Some persons may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, including, but not limited to, persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV / AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The persons should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **INFORMATION on PRODUCT RECALLS:**

If you would like to know whether a particular bottled water product has been recalled or is being recalled, please visit the FDA's website <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.