



The Water Industry



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Water Utilities

- Water
 - The only utility you ingest
- Division of Water and Audits
 - 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)
 - DWA 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 (formerly with DPH)
- 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





GO 103-A

- Standards for the design, construction, location, maintenance and operation of water and wastewater utilities;
 - Water Quality and Supply
 - Service and Repair standards
 - Fire Protection Standards
 - Pressure Standards
 - Customer Service and Reporting
 - Telephone
 - Billing
 - Meter reading





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

