

PRESS RELEASE
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City of Benicia Responds to Water Quality Concerns

Benicia, CA (October 24, 2019) — Recently, a report was released by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) analyzing drinking water sources from across the nation. The EWG report included “Health Protective Guidelines” which appear to indicate that unsafe levels of contaminants were found in drinking water, including water supplied by the City of Benicia. However, these Guidelines do not appear to be based on adopted federal or state standards.

The California State Water Resources Control Board and the US Environmental Protection Agency set water quality standards, which are based on rigorous scientific studies and analysis. City of Benicia staff conducts over 10,000 tests annually to protect public health and ensure water produced meets or exceeds these standards.

“EWG Guidelines artificially set water quality limits below state and federal limits which creates undue confusion. The implication that the City of Benicia is serving water with unhealthy levels of hexavalent chromium and total trihalomethanes (TTHM) to our residents is unequivocally false”, said Kyle Ochendusko, Deputy Public Works Director for the City of Benicia.

EWG’s 2019 Tap Water Database lists two contaminants in the City of Benicia’s drinking water, hexavalent chromium and TTHM. Under closer examination, EWG’s guidelines for both contaminants are well below established State and Federal regulatory limits for TTHM or include contaminants that currently do not have an established legal limit (hexavalent chromium). The City of Benicia’s water quality testing consistently shows that water provided to customers contains contaminants below the scientifically established regulatory standards.

Every day, City staff works to provide safe, clean drinking water to our customers and their families. For an accurate report of water quality and regulated standards, please review the City of Benicia’s recent Consumer Confidence Report for Drinking Water Quality at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/wqr>.

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