

Presented below are water quality standards that are in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

EPA is posting these standards as a convenience to users and has made a reasonable effort to assure their accuracy. Additionally, EPA has made a reasonable effort to identify parts of the standards that are not approved, disapproved, or are otherwise not in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

Chapter 3. Water Quality Objectives

3.3.21 OBJECTIVES FOR SPECIFIC CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS

Surface waters shall not contain concentrations of chemical constituents in amounts that adversely affect any designated beneficial use. Water quality objectives for selected toxic pollutants for surface waters are given in Tables 3-3, 3-3A, 3-3B, 3-4, and 3-4A.

The Regional Board intends to work towards the derivation of site-specific objectives for the Bay-Delta estuarine system. Site-specific objectives to be considered by the Regional Board shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, the State Water Code, State Board water quality control plans, and this Plan. These site-specific objectives will take into consideration factors such as all available scientific information and monitoring data and the latest U.S. EPA guidance, and local environmental conditions and impacts caused by bioaccumulation. The objectives in Tables 3-3 and 3-4 apply throughout the region except as otherwise indicated in the Tables or when site-specific objectives for the pollutant parameter have been adopted. Site-specific objectives for copper and nickel, adopted for South San Francisco Bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge, are listed in Table 3-3A. Objectives for mercury that apply to San Francisco Bay are listed in Table 3-3B. Objectives for mercury that apply to Walker Creek, Soulajule Reservoir and their tributaries, and to waters of the Guadalupe River watershed, are listed in Table 3-4A.

Table 3-4: Freshwater Water Quality Objectives for Toxic Pollutants for Surface Waters (all values in ug/l)

Compound	4-day Average	1-hr Average
Arsenic ^{b, c, d}	150	340
Cadmium ^{b, d}	e	e
Chromium III ^f		
Chromium VI ^{b, c, d, g}	11	16
Copper ^{b, c, d}	9.0 ^h	13 ^h
Cyanide ⁱ		
Lead ^{b, c, d}	2.5 ^j	65 ^j
Mercury ^k	0.025	2.4
Nickel ^{b, c, d}	52 ^l	470 ^l
Selenium ^m		
Silver ^{b, c, d}		3.4 ⁿ
Tributyltin ^o		
Zinc ^{b, c, d}	120 ^p	120 ^p

Notes:

^a Freshwaters are those in which the salinity is equal to or less than 1 part per thousand 95% of the time, as set forth in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan. Unless a site-specific objective has been adopted, these objectives shall apply to all freshwaters except for the South Bay south of Dumbarton Bridge, where the California Toxics Rule (CTR) applies. For waters in which the salinity is between 1 and 10 parts per thousand, the applicable objectives are the more stringent of the marine (Table 3-3) and freshwater objectives.

^b Source: 40 CFR Part 131.38 (California Toxics Rule or CTR), May 18, 2000.

^c These objectives for metals are expressed in terms of the dissolved fraction of the metal in the water column.

^d These objectives are expressed as a function of the water-effect ratio (WER), which is a measure of the toxicity of a pollutant in site water divided by the same measure of the toxicity of the same pollutant in laboratory dilution water. The 1-hr. and 4-day objectives = table value X WER. The table values assume a WER equal to one.

^e The objectives for cadmium and other noted metals are expressed by formulas where H = ln (hardness) as CaCO₃ in mg/l: The four-day average objective for cadmium is $e^{(0.7852 H - 3.490)}$. This is 1.1 µg/l at a hardness of 100 mg/l as CaCO₃. The one-hour average objective for cadmium is $e^{(1.128 H - 3.828)}$. This is 3.9 µg/l at a hardness of 100 mg/l as CaCO₃.

^f Chromium III criteria were promulgated in the National Toxics Rule (NTR). The NTR criteria specifically apply to San Francisco Bay upstream to and including Suisun Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Note: at the time of writing, the values are 180 µg/l (4-day average) and 550 µg/l (1-hr. average). The objectives for chromium III are based on hardness. The values in this footnote assume a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objectives must be calculated using the following formulas where H = ln (hardness): The 4-day average objective for chromium III is $e^{(0.8190 H + 1.561)}$. The 1-hour average for chromium III is $e^{(0.8190 H + 3.688)}$.

^g This objective may be met as total chromium.

- ^h The objectives for copper are based on hardness. The table values assume a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objectives must be calculated using the following formulas where H = ln (hardness): The 4-day average objective for copper is $e^{(0.8545H-1.702)}$. The 1-hour average for copper is $e^{(0.9422H-1.700)}$.
- ⁱ Cyanide criteria were promulgated in the National Toxics Rule (NTR). The NTR criteria specifically apply to San Francisco Bay upstream to and including Suisun Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Note: at the time of writing, the values are 5.2 ug/l (4-day average) and 22 ug/l (1-hr. average).
- ^j The objectives for lead are based on hardness. The table values assume a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objectives must be calculated using the following formulas where H = ln (hardness): The 4-day average objective is $e^{(1.273H-4.705)}$. The 1-hour average for lead is $e^{(1.273H-1.460)}$.
- ^k Source: U.S. EPA Quality Criteria for Water 1986 (EPA 440/5-86-001), which established a mercury criterion of 0.012 ug/l. The Basin Plan set the objective at 0.025 based on considerations of the level of detection attainable at that time. The 4-day average value for mercury does not apply to Walker Creek and SoulaJule Reservoir and their tributaries, nor to waters of the Guadalupe River watershed listed in Table 3-4A; instead, the water quality objectives specified in Table 3-4A apply. The 1-hour average value continues to apply to waters specified in Table 3-4A.
- ^l The objectives for nickel are based on hardness. The table values assume a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objectives must be calculated using the following formulas where H = ln (hardness): The 4-day average objective is $e^{(0.8460H + 0.0584)}$. The 1-hour average objective is $e^{(0.8460H + 2.255)}$.
- ^m Selenium criteria were promulgated for all San Francisco Bay/Delta waters in the National Toxics Rule (NTR). The NTR criteria specifically apply to San Francisco Bay upstream to and including Suisun Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Note: at the time of writing, the values are 5.0 ug/l (4-day average) and 20 ug/l (1-hr. average).
- ⁿ The objective for silver is based on hardness. The table value assumes a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objective must be calculated using the following formula where H = ln (hardness): The 1-hour average objective for silver is $e^{(1.72H-6.52)}$. U.S. EPA has not developed a 4-day criterion.
- ^o Tributyltin is a compound used as an antifouling ingredient in marine paints and toxic to aquatic life in low concentrations. U.S. EPA has published draft criteria for protection of aquatic life (Federal Register: December 27, 2002, Vol. 67, No. 249, Page 79090-79091). These criteria are cited for advisory purposes. The draft criteria may be revised.
- ^p The objectives for zinc are based on hardness. The table values assume a hardness of 100 mg/l CaCO₃. At other hardnesses, the objectives must be calculated using the following formulas where H = ln (hardness): The 4-day average objective for zinc is $e^{(0.8473 H+0.884)}$. The 1-hour average for zinc is $e^{(0.8473 H+0.884)}$.

Table 3-4A: Freshwater Water Quality Objectives for Mercury in Walker Creek, Soulajule Reservoir, and Their Tributaries; and in Waters of the Guadalupe River Watershed, Except Los Gatos Creek and its Tributaries Upstream of Vasona Dam, Lake Elisman, Lexington Reservoir, and Vasona Lake

Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife ^a	0.05 mg methylmercury per kg fish	Average wet weight concentration measured in whole trophic level 3 fish 5–15 cm in length
	0.1 mg methylmercury per kg fish	Average wet weight concentration measured in whole trophic level 3 fish >15–35 cm in length

Note:

^aThe freshwater water quality objectives for the protection of aquatic organisms and wildlife also protect humans who consume fish from the Walker Creek and Guadalupe River watersheds.