



## CUWA Policy Principles

### Water Quality

April 24, 2012

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Since its inception, CUWA has recognized the importance of source water quality protection. The following policy principles summarize CUWA's current position on water quality issues and replace previous versions (1999, 2002, and 2004).

#### Principles

- Apply the **multi-barrier approach** to protect public health, including protection of drinking water at its source, drinking water treatment, and a safe system to distribute treated water to the consumer.
- Use state and federal **anti-degradation policies** to maintain source water quality.
- Always **incorporate drinking water beneficial uses in regional and statewide regulatory efforts** such as CV-SALTS and the Nutrient Numeric Endpoint Processes.
- **Balance ecosystem and drinking water quality needs**, such as the benefits that organic carbon provides for the ecosystem and the problems that it poses for dangerous disinfectant byproduct formation in drinking water treatment.
- Do sufficient **monitoring** of the drinking water quality constituents of concern to characterize source water quality and ensure that there is no degradation.

#### Constituents of Concern

The principles listed above should be used to keep the following drinking water constituents of concern to the lowest practicable levels in source water used for municipal and domestic supply.

- **Organic carbon.** Organic carbon dissolved and suspended in water is a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem. However, it can combine with disinfectants in the drinking water treatment process to produce disinfection byproducts that are harmful to human health.
- **Nutrients.** Nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, support primary productivity in the environment but can lead to algae blooms that cause operational, taste and odor, and toxicity problems for drinking water.
- **Salinity.** Salinity in the drinking water supply can cause corrosion, unpleasant taste and odor, economic impacts to utilities and their customers, and constraints on water recycling and groundwater management programs. Bromide, one component of salinity, can produce harmful disinfection byproducts.
- **Pathogens.** Pathogens such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* can cause direct impacts to human health.
- **Emerging contaminants.** If rigorous scientific assessment finds human health impacts from contaminants not previously considered to affect drinking water quality, new source water protection measures must be enacted.

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201 N. Civic Drive, Suite 115, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-210-2525 [www.cuwa.org](http://www.cuwa.org)