

Public Water System Definitions

The definitions of a public water system and different types of public water systems are given below. These definitions are in Section 116275 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act which is contained in Part 12, Chapter 4 of the California Health and Safety Code. The link at the bottom of this page is to a compilation of California statutes related to drinking water including the California Safe Drinking Water Act.

116275. Definitions.

(h) “**Public water system**” means a system for the provision of water for **human consumption** through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more **service connections** or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. A public water system includes the following:

(1) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of the system that are used primarily in connection with the system.

(2) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator that are used primarily in connection with the system.

(3) Any water system that treats water on behalf of one or more public water systems for the purpose of rendering it safe for human consumption.

(e) “**Human consumption**” means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, handwashing, oral hygiene, or cooking, including, but not limited to, preparing food and washing dishes.

(s) “**Service connection**” means the point of connection between the customer’s piping or constructed conveyance, and the water system’s meter, service pipe, or constructed conveyance. A connection to a system that delivers water by a constructed conveyance other than a pipe shall not be considered a connection in determining if the system is a public water system if any of the following apply:

(1) The water is used exclusively for purposes other than residential uses, consisting of drinking, bathing, and cooking or other similar uses.

(2) The department determines that alternative water to achieve the equivalent level of public health protection provided by the applicable primary drinking water regulation is provided for residential or similar uses for drinking and cooking.

(3) The department determines that the water provided for residential or similar uses for drinking, cooking, and bathing is centrally treated or treated at the point of entry

by the provider, a pass through entity, or the user to achieve the equivalent level of protection provided by the applicable primary drinking water regulations.

(i) “**Community water system**” means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong **residents** or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong **residents** of the area served by the system.

(j) “**Noncommunity water system**” means a public water system that is not a community water system.

(k) “**Nontransient noncommunity water system**” means a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year.

(t) “**Resident**” means a person who physically occupies, whether by ownership, rental, lease, or other means, the same dwelling for at least 60 days of the year.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Documents/Lawbook/DWstatutes-2012-01-01a.pdf>