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## State Water Resources Control Board

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

**Project Title:** Adoption of a Regulation for the Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level

**Lead Agency:** State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

**SCH Number:** 2021110099

**Description of Project:** The State Water Board is proposing to adopt a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium (Proposed Regulations) under the California Safe Drinking Water Act. The Proposed Regulations include a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium of 10 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and a detection limit for purposes of reporting of 0.1 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). Public water systems, depending on type, would be required to monitor their drinking water for hexavalent chromium on an initial and ongoing basis. Public water systems would need to comply with the MCL according to a compliance schedule, and prepare Hexavalent Chromium MCL Compliance Plans, as required. The Proposed Regulations include three best available technologies for removing hexavalent chromium from drinking water sources, including reduction/coagulation/filtration, ion exchange, and reverse osmosis. Public water systems using new or modified treatment for hexavalent chromium would need to prepare Hexavalent Chromium Operations Plans. Public water systems are not limited to using best available technologies and may consider other means of compliance, such as blending, drilling a new well, increasing reliance on surface water, purchasing water from, or consolidating with another water system, or using another form of treatment such as stannous chloride. The Proposed Regulations also specify laboratory methods for analyzing hexavalent chromium in drinking water.

**Project Location:** The Proposed Regulations apply to public water systems operating in California. Public water systems with hexavalent chromium contamination above the MCL will likely implement compliance projects, such as installation of treatment or obtaining new sources of supply. The locations of future compliance projects by public water systems are not currently known. Accordingly, it is unknown whether future compliance projects by public water systems will occur on properties with hazardous waste sites on any list specified under section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**Anticipated Significant Environmental Effects:**

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant impacts on the following resources: Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources,

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. Because there is inherent uncertainty in where public water systems will locate future compliance projects, the nature of those compliance projects, and in the mitigation measures that will be required by the CEQA lead and responsible agencies for those compliance projects, the Draft EIR takes a conservative approach in making post-mitigation significance conclusions and finds that the potentially significant impacts are unavoidable.

**Availability of Draft EIR:**

The Draft EIR is available at [the State Water Board's website](#). Hardcopies of the Draft EIR and appendices may also be reviewed at the State Water Board's headquarters at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or at one of the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water field offices in Redding, Santa Rosa, Richmond, Monterey, Carpinteria, Glendale, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, San Diego, Stockton, Fresno, or Bakersfield. The document is available by appointment only. Addresses of field offices are available at the [State Water Board's website](#). Please [email the Division of Drinking Water](#) to schedule an appointment.

The Draft EIR and appendices are also available at the Sacramento County Public Law Library at 609 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Sacramento.

**Public Review Period:**

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their comments electronically. Comment letters can be submitted by email to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620 with the subject "Comment Letter – DEIR Hexavalent Chromium MCL." To be fully considered, written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on August 4, 2023**. Written comments may also be delivered by mail to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The State Water Board requests but does not require that, if reports or articles in excess of 25 pages are submitted in conjunction with the comments, the commenter provide a summary of the report or article and describe the reason for which the report or article is being submitted or its relevance to the DEIR or the Proposed Regulation.

Due to the limitations of the e-mail system, emails larger than 15 megabytes (MB) may be rejected and will not be delivered and received by the State Water Board. Therefore, emails larger than 15 MB should be submitted under separate emails or via another form of delivery.

**Public Hearing:**

The State Water Board will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the Proposed Regulations and the Draft EIR. The hearing will be held on August 2, 2023 at 1:00 PM. Details about the meeting will be posted on the [State Water Board's website](#).

**Email Distribution List:**

To sign up to receive future email announcements concerning the Proposed Regulations, please enroll in the [email subscription for "Drinking Water Program Announcements"](#).

**Further Questions:**

Questions about this Notice of Availability may be directed to the [Division of Drinking Water's hexavalent chromium email address](#) or to Kim Niemeyer at (916) 341-5547.