
Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Attachment

PROJECT TITLE: Adoption of a Regulation for the Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level (Project)

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project is a statewide regulation that would apply to all public drinking water systems in the State of California. Water systems with hexavalent chromium exceeding the proposed MCL are located throughout the state and specific locations are not currently known.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project consists of the State Water Board adopting and implementing a regulation that establishes the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium (aka chromium-6) in drinking water provided by public water systems (PWS) in California. The State Water Board is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the adoption of the regulation. The State Water Board is considering 17 possible MCLs (1 to 15, 20, and 25 µg/L).

The project scope includes not only setting the MCL for hexavalent chromium, but also the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance. For hexavalent chromium, three treatment technologies are being identified as the Best Available Technology: Ion Exchange, Reduction-Coagulation/Filtration, and Reverse Osmosis. Public Water Systems, however, are not limited to treatment, and can consider other alternatives, if available. Such options could include the removal of contaminated source wells from use, blending of a contaminated source with an uncontaminated source to meet the MCL prior to distribution, drilling and constructing a new well in an uncontaminated aquifer, switching from contaminated groundwater to surface water, or consolidation with another water system that meets the MCL.

Tribal Notification: Notification letters have been sent to all 35 tribes who have requested notice from the State Water Board pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21080.3.1.

COMMENT PERIOD: November 5, 2021 to December 6, 2021

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) is available for review and comment for 31 days. The comment period for this NOP begins November 5, 2021 and ends on December 6,

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

2021. Responses should be sent at the earliest possible date, but **no later than 5:00 PM on December 6, 2021**.

Please submit your written comments to ddw-hexavalentchromium@waterboards.ca.gov or via mail to Kim Niemeyer, State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, California 95812-0100. In your response, please indicate the public agency or other entity you represent, and the name and phone number of a contact person.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

The State Water Board will hold a scoping meeting to provide information on the Hexavalent Chromium MCL Regulation and potential implementation methods, and to receive written or oral comments from agency personnel and other interested persons concerning the range of alternatives, potential significant effects, and mitigation measures that should be analyzed in the EIR. The time allotted for each individual or organization to provide oral comments may be limited if the number of people in attendance so requires.

The scoping meetings will be held virtually via Zoom as follows:

Tuesday, November 29, 2021 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Zoom Meeting Information: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/98454482459>

Or

https://bit.ly/CEQAScoping_HexChrme

Call-in number: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 984 5448 2459

If you have additional questions concerning the meeting or would like to make a request for reasonable accommodations for a disability, please contact Kim Niemeyer by email at ddw-hexavalentchromium@waterboards.ca.gov.

Kim Niemeyer, Attorney
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100