



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

April 25, 2022

Amolk Brar
American Scientific Laboratories, LLC
2520 North San Fernando Road
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Brar,

Certificate No. 2200

Pursuant to Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act (ELAA) Section 100915, American Scientific Laboratory, LLC (ASL) Certificate Number 2200 is IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED. ASL shall discontinue the analysis of samples for ALL Fields of Accreditation (FOA) IMMEDIATELY.

The Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) investigated ASL and determined ASL falsified its Proficiency Test (PT) sample results and submitted the falsified results as part of its 2021 renewal application package. Falsifying PT results violates multiple sections of the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act (ELAA) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Failure to perform successful PT tests and submitting false PT results are bases for suspending or revoking laboratory accreditation. ASL has not demonstrated they are competent to perform analyses that are protective of public health and the environment, as such ELAP is temporarily suspending ASL from performing analyses for regulatory purposes until the requirements below are met.

ELAP's investigation found:

1. The instruments used for EPA Methods 300.0, SM 4110B, EPA 218.6, and EPA 218.7 were not available to use for the calendar year 2020 and 2021 due to instrument failure.
2. Staff could not provide any data and stated alternative methods were used to perform the PTs for the above stated methods. The laboratory submitted the alternative methods as if they were performed on the instruments described above.
3. Staff did not have an updated method appropriate for the instrumentation being used to perform ion chromatography methods.
4. Logbooks being used by staff regularly had incorrect or incomplete information relative to what is needed for accuracy.

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

The ELAA and CCR require laboratories to successfully pass PTs using methods for which the laboratory is seeking accreditation. ASL falsified the method that was used to obtain the results and submitted these falsified records to support accreditation. Submitting false statements or representations in any application, report or other document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the ELAA is a criminal act.

Suspended FOAs

ELAP is suspending **ALL** FOAs due to the direct effect they may have on the public and environment. Collectively, the practice of falsifying PT records and submitting falsified records to support accreditation do not comply with the fundamental requirements of the ELAA or CCR. Consequently, confidence in the quality and integrity of the data produced by ASL has been severely compromised and is not reliable for regulatory compliance and public safety.

Impact to ASL's Clients

If ASL cannot make arrangements to provide for accredited testing for the affected FOAs for their clients or if any of ASL's clients desire to use another nearby ELAP accredited laboratory, please direct clients to contact ELAP's general inbox at elapca@waterboards.ca.gov or view the interactive laboratory map on ELAP's website to find another ELAP accredited laboratory.

Reinstatement of Suspended FOAs

ASL is currently under investigation for other potential violations. ELAP has received and approve your request to relinquish your Drinking water FOAs, which include FOA 102 and FOA 103. ELAP will consider reinstatement of the suspended FOAs after ASL successfully completes PTs, provides data packages for each PT, provides complete and up to date training records for all staff, corrects all violations of the ELAA and its regulations, and successfully completes an onsite assessment.

The risk to public health from the violations identified in this notice requires ELAP to take immediate action. ELAP may issue further enforcement action upon completion of its investigation.

If you disagree with the Temporary Suspension, you must submit a written request for a hearing within 20 days of receipt of this Notice. The hearing shall follow the timeline described in ELAA Section 100915 unless you request an extension. If you do not request a hearing within 20 days of receiving this Notice, the Suspension will remain in effect until ELAP determines the laboratory's compliance with the ELAA and its regulations.

Should you have any technical questions or require further assistance, please contact Naeem Ahmad naeem.ahmad@waterboards.ca.gov. For any legal inquiries or clarification, please contact Nickolaus Knight, Attorney with the Office of Enforcement, at (916) 327-0169 or nickolaus.knight@waterboards.ca.gov.

Amolk Brar
American Scientific Laboratory

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April 25, 2022

Sincerely,

Christine Sotelo, Chief
Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

Cc:

Nickolaus Knight, Office of Enforcement, SWRCB
Kim Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB
Robert Brownwood, Program Management Branch, SWRCB
Peter Husby, US EPA Region 9
Elizabeth Berg, US EPA Region 9
Corine Li, US EPA Region 9
Alexandria Turner, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program