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## State Water Resources Control Board

### Advisory Notice on Laboratory Reports

September 15, 2022

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**SUBJECT: Advisory for ELAP-Accredited Laboratories Providing Non-Regulatory or Unaccredited Testing**

The Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program's (ELAP's) Enforcement Unit has discovered that ELAP accredited laboratories may be unintentionally misrepresenting their accreditation status and ELAP certification number on laboratory reports for non-regulatory tests, for example, reports relating to testing done on consumer products under Proposition 65. Laboratory reports for non-regulatory samples containing ELAP certificate numbers without qualification may lead regulators and/or the public to assume that the laboratory is ELAP accredited to conduct the analysis.

California ELAP was established to provide evaluation and accreditation of environmental testing laboratories to ensure the quality of analytical data used for **regulatory purposes** to meet the requirements of the State's environmental regulatory programs. ELAP accredited laboratories are accredited to test **environmental samples** in specific matrixes for contaminants using test methods published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, ASTM international, Standard Methods of Water and Wastewater, or as otherwise directed by a State Regulatory Agency. ELAP does not offer accreditation for test methods published by the Consumer Products Safety Commission, and laboratory reports identifying these methods with an ELAP accreditation number or statement claiming compliance with ELAP regulations may wrongfully imply that ELAP granted the laboratory accreditation for these methods.

**CA ELAP is advising all ELAP-accredited laboratories to review [the California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64814.00](#) and ensure their laboratory reports do not imply that their ELAP certificate extends to unaccredited or non-regulatory analysis.** ELAP recommends that laboratories clearly distinguish between regulatory and non-regulatory analyses so the laboratory's client can identify which results were tested under accredited methods and which are not.

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