

ITEM: 19

SUBJECT: Hexavalent Chromium Regulatory Update for the Central Valley

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item Only*

BACKGROUND: The California Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium in public drinking supply, also known as chromium 6, was established by the California Department of Public Health in 2014 at 10 parts per billion (ppb). This was a significant change from the total chromium MCL that was used prior to that time. As a result, issues with complying with the new MCL standard by dischargers and water purveyors have been identified throughout the central valley region. Hexavalent chromium in groundwater can exist from anthropogenic sources such as plating shops, and as a byproduct of in situ treatment technologies such as in situ chemical oxidation. Hexavalent chromium can also exist from naturally occurring geologic sources in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges, and from non-point sources that may chemically enhance the occurrence of hexavalent chromium in groundwater such as agricultural operations.

Concentrations greater than the new MCL for hexavalent chromium are now impacting the ability of water purveyors to provide drinking water that is compliant with the new standard throughout the central valley region. A case study will be presented showing how the occurrence of hexavalent chromium is affecting a local water district in Sacramento County. The case study will also address actions to address hexavalent chromium source areas on the former McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento County. Studies and actions are ongoing to address the natural occurrence of hexavalent chromium, treatment options, financial impacts to community drinking water supplies, and identification and cleanup of source areas.

ISSUES: Impact of the new hexavalent chromium MCL on water purveyors throughout the central valley region.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item only. No action needs to be taken.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_  
10/11 December 2015  
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