

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Status of Actions October 2026 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

#### Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Second Quarter 2026 groundwater data indicate that plume migration is not occurring. Data does reflect natural fluctuations of chromium concentrations in groundwater as remediation progresses. The Second Quarter 2026 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Second Quarter 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=bv7gu) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=bv7gu>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml)), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The Third Quarter 2026 plume map is due on November 10, 2026, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068-A1.

#### Proposed Sampling Modifications to Monitoring and Reporting Program of CAO No. R6V-2015-0068-A1

PG&E submitted a Technical Memorandum (Tech Memo) proposing adjustments to the groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the Hinkley groundwater remediation project CAO supported by more than a decade of data showing stable or declining chromium levels in many monitoring wells. The proposal includes reducing sampling frequency or discontinuing sampling at wells where chromium concentrations have remained consistently below naturally occurring background levels identified in a 2023 U.S. Geological Survey study. These recommendations follow the criteria outlined in the CAO and its MRP.

In total, PG&E proposes changes to 39 monitoring wells across the northern, eastern, western, and lower aquifer areas. Despite these reductions, sufficient monitoring coverage would remain to continue defining the chromium plume boundary and ensuring protection of domestic wells. The request emphasizes that monitoring reductions are warranted due to plume stability and contraction, supported by extensive long-term data and regulatory decision-tree evaluations conducted annually. Water Board staff are reviewing the proposed sampling modifications Tech Memo.

### **Proposed Revised Deep Zone Hydraulic Capture Metrics**

The proposed third revision to the hydraulic capture metrics for chromium groundwater remediation at PG&E's Hinkley site aims to optimize plume containment and reduce water use as the chromium plume continues to contract. The updated approach shifts the deep zone containment target southward, which will allow the northern extraction well EX-01 to be turned off or operated at reduced capacity. Monitoring well pairs will be reconfigured, with some removed and contingency wells added to better track potential chromium rebound. If chromium levels extend beyond the revised containment boundaries, contingency actions—such as reinstating previous extraction configurations—will be implemented. Ongoing monitoring at designated wells will continue, with quarterly reporting on groundwater levels and chromium concentrations. The revised deep zone hydraulic capture metrics were accepted on October 15, 2026.

### **Investigation of the Influence of Agricultural Treatment Units on Uranium Concentrations in Groundwater Results Report**

On October 1, 2026, PG&E submitted the report on the Investigation of the Influence of Agricultural Treatment Units on Uranium Concentrations in Groundwater Results Report. The purpose of the investigation was to determine whether Agricultural Treatment Unit (ATU) operations are influencing uranium concentrations in groundwater. Earlier studies could not determine if uranium levels in groundwater were being affected by irrigation water from the ATUs, partly because not enough time had passed for irrigated water to reach the water table. Additionally, naturally elevated and spatially variable uranium levels caused by historic agricultural and dairy practices made it difficult to distinguish ATU related changes from legacy impacts. Water Board staff are reviewing this report.

### **Feasibility Study to Evaluate Hexavalent Chromium Background Values**

The Investigative Order was issued on July 28, 2026, requires PG&E to submit a Feasibility Study that provides technical information to the Water Board to assist staff in determining a cleanup level for chromium contamination in groundwater at the PG&E Hinkley Compressor Station. The feasibility study is being performed by PG&E to inform us on cleanup time frames, developing cleanup goals or milestones, applying information learned from the USGS Background Study, and updating the model to correspond with current site conditions. PG&E is required to submit the final feasibility study by July 28, 2027.

### **Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage**

Water Board staff have updated our [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/)). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to access or download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

## **Your Water Board Staff Contacts**

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the listed should you need assistance.

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