

Chrome 6 Update

(July 27, 2017)

The staff of Hidden Valley Lake CSD (District) has been working in conjunction with many water agencies throughout the State of California to resolve the Hexavalent Chrome (aka: Chrome 6 & Cr6) issue that face our districts and their customers. Recently, a law suit filed by nongovernmental agencies was heard by the court system.

Our District was recently notified that a letter we submitted prior to the court findings was instrumental in the Court's decision to require the State of California (Water Board) to reexamine the initial rule which lowered the Cr6 levels (MCL) in drinking water from 50ppb to 10ppb while the federal limit for total chrome remained at 100ppb.

Recognizing the Districts initial impact to this court case, the District was asked to write another letter to discourage the State Water Board from appealing the court ruling. This letter, along with several others from special districts and cities throughout California were heard by the Water Board who recently decided that they will not appeal the court ruling. As indicated in the quote from the Water Board below, we expect the Cr6 MCL to return to 50ppb by the end of September 2017.

"While the (Water) Board staff disagrees with the court's conclusion, the (Water) Board staff's recommendation is to not appeal the trial court's decision. It will likely be more expedient to begin the process of adopting a new MCL, rather than expending time and resources appealing the court's order. The State Water Board hopes that the wealth of data obtained during the nearly three years the MCL has been in place will enable the (Water) Board to adopt the new regulation more quickly.

At its August 1 board meeting, the (Water) Board will consider adoption of a resolution directing staff to take the necessary steps to delete the text of the regulations establishing and implementing an MCL for hexavalent chromium, which consist of portions of CCR, title 22, sections 64431, 64432, 64447.2, 64465, and 64481. After the Office of Administrative Law approves the proposal, the removal of the regulations will be effective in late September.

The (Water) Board recognizes that many public water systems and their customers have questions about the next steps. The State Water Board will not be enforcing any compliance plans that public water systems entered into for hexavalent chromium, as the MCL will no longer be in effect. However, the MCL for total chromium of 50 parts per billion will remain in place."

More here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.shtml

There is still much to do as the state intends to reevaluate the Cr6 MCL and the financial hardship that treatment places on smaller districts such as Hidden Valley Lake CSD before setting a new Cr6 MCL. The District shall continue to work toward providing the highest quality water at the most economical price possible.



Kirk Cloyd, GM, HVL Community Services District