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## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

March 18, 2016

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District  
Attn: Matt Bassett, Interim General Manager  
19400 Hartmann Road  
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467

### **HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT # 1710015 - HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM COMPLIANCE**

Dear Mr. Bassett;

This letter is in response to your request for compliance status with respect to state and federal drinking water quality standards, in particular, hexavalent chromium. On July 1, 2014, California adopted a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Hexavalent Chromium of 10 parts per billion (ppb) in drinking water. Prior to this date, hexavalent chromium in drinking water was regulated under the Total Chromium state MCL of 50 ppb. The rest of the United States continues to use the Total Chromium federal MCL of 100 ppb to regulate hexavalent chromium. Hidden Valley Lake CSD initiated hexavalent chromium monitoring of its sources in December 2014 in accordance with the rule.

A requirement in Section 116365.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) directed the State of California to establish a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium on or before January 1, 2004. Section 116365 of the CHSC also imposes requirements on the State for adoption of primary drinking water standards. One of those requirements is that the State set the MCL as close as possible to the public health goal (PHG) established by the California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Cal/EPA OEHHA), to the extent technologically and economically feasible. OEHHA established the PHG for hexavalent chromium on July 27, 2011 at 0.02 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or ppb, equivalent to 0.00002 milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ). A PHG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water that does not pose a significant health risk.

Senate Bill 385, which became law effective September 4, 2015, allows public water systems with sources that produce water with a hexavalent chromium concentration above the MCL time to come into compliance without being deemed in violation of the MCL. The time period for achieving compliance may not, in any case, extend beyond January 1, 2020. The basic premise of this new section of law is that a public water system must submit its plan for achieving compliance within the shortest period of time, obtain state board approval of the Compliance Plan, and carry out the plan in a timely manner.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The State Water Resource Control Board Division of Drinking Water (Division) received a notice of intent from Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (System) to implement a Hexavalent Chromium MCL Compliance Plan. In order for the Division to approve the System's plan in achieving its MCL compliance, the System must:

- Have the request signed by the person who has the legal authority to act for the public water system in matters before the State Board; and
- Submit a full compliance plan for the Division's review no later than April 29th, 2016.

The compliance plan must include a written description of all the elements listed in the System's Hexavalent Chromium MCL Compliance Schedule (such as Feasibility Study, Treatment Design, etc.). The compliance plan should also include all other feasible options being assessed by the System as possible solutions in reducing the hexavalent chromium MCL into compliance.

The Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District is serving drinking water that is in compliance with all state and federal water quality MCLs. While the State is not advising customers to use an alternative water supply at this time, customers that are concerned about the levels of hexavalent chromium are able to consider other options for drinking water.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me by email at [sheri.miller@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sheri.miller@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at (707) 576-2734.

Sincerely,



Sheri Miller, P.E.  
Sr. Sanitary Engineer, Mendocino District  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board

c: Karen Tait, Lake County Health  
Lake County Environmental Health