



WELCOME

Santa Cruz County

Small Water Systems Forum

September 18, 2024



- ▶ Being Ready for Disaster. Applying for FEMA support
- ▶ **Hexavalent Chromium MCL**
- ▶ Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory Guidance

WHAT IS CHROMIUM?

- Chromium is metallic and found in nature. It is used for making steel, metal plating, corrosion inhibitor, tanning, etc.
- Total chromium has been regulated since 1992 and the current federal MCL is 100 ppb. CA regulates total chromium at 50 ppb.
- Total chromium is composed of trivalent chromium (chromium 3) and hexavalent chromium (chromium 6). Chromium 3 is an essential nutrient. Chromium 6 is a carcinogen.

REGULATING CHROMIUM IN CA

- CA first established a hexavalent chromium MCL in 2014 but it was invalidated in 2017 and removed from regulation.
- CA went back to work on the regulation and in April 2024 the State Board adopted the hexavalent chromium regulation.
- The hexavalent chromium regulation will be effective on October 1, 2024.

INITIAL SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

INCLUDING
PREVIOUS DATA

CHROMIUM 6 INITIAL SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

- Within 6 months of hexavalent chromium's effective date (October 1, 2024) public water systems must collect their first sample from each source.
 - Initial sampling must be complete by April 1, 2025.
- Water systems must use a certified EPA Method to analyze hexavalent chromium. Approved methods are EPA Methods 218.6 and 218.7.
- Water systems may use previous data.
 - Less than 2 years old.
 - Performed using an approved method.
 - Detection limit is appropriate to determine the result's relation to the MCL.

RESPONDING TO INITIAL SAMPLING RESULTS?

- If initial sample is < 10 ppb:
 - The water system begins routine monitoring (every 3 years)
- If initial sample is > 10 ppb:
 - Initiate quarterly sampling by collecting the second sample within 90 days of the initial sample and every 90 days thereafter until 4 quarters are collected or an MCL determination is made.
 - Water systems with a 4-sample average above the MCL will need to create a Compliance Plan and provide public notice.

COMPLIANCE PLAN

- Water systems that exceed the MCL are required to submit a compliance plan to Santa Cruz County.
- The plan is due within 90 days of the MCL exceedance.
- Public notification of the MCL exceedance is required, but the water system does not declare they are out of compliance.

- The hexavalent chromium compliance plan describes the actions the water system will take to achieve compliance with the hexavalent chromium MCL by October 1, 2028.
- Specifically, the regulation requires the Compliance Plan to contain:
 - Proposed method of compliance
 - Projected dates for:
 - plans and specifications submission.
 - construction start date and end date.
 - pilot study completion date
 - operations plan completion date
 - date when they will be expected to serve water that meets the hexavalent chromium standard.

If construction is proposed.

If treatment is proposed.

WHAT IS A HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM COMPLIANCE PLAN?

Thank You!

More information on Hexavalent Chromium, and the rule making process, can be found here:

[Hexavalent Chromium MCL \(SWRCB-DDW-21-003\) | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)