COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Steve Van Stockum, Director

DATE: July 29, 2014

TO: All community and nontransient noncommunity water systems

SUBJECT: **STATE ADOPTION OF A HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MCL**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) adopted a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water. **On July 1, 2014, a California MCL of 0.010 mg/L (10 ug/L) for hexavalent chromium became effective.** The new regulations have been incorporated into the CDPH's on-line regulation book located at:

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Lawbook.aspx

1. **What is the effective date of the hexavalent chromium MCL and to what entities does it apply?**
   California's hexavalent chromium MCL became effective on July 1, 2014. Public water systems (PWS) classified as community water systems and nontransient noncommunity water systems must comply with the new MCL.

2. **What are the initial monitoring requirements for hexavalent chromium?**
   The regulations require initial monitoring for hexavalent chromium within six months of the effective date. Therefore, on or before January 1, 2015, your PWS must have monitored their drinking water sources for hexavalent chromium. A PWS with groundwater sources may use previous hexavalent chromium results to satisfy the initial monitoring requirement if monitoring took place no more than two years prior to the effective date, and an approved analytical method was used by a laboratory certified by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) to perform such an analysis. See #5 below and http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/labs/Pages/ELAP.aspx for more information.

3. **Can total chromium monitoring results be used in lieu of hexavalent chromium?**
   Not for initial monitoring. However, for subsequent routine monitoring, total chromium results may be used in lieu of hexavalent chromium monitoring if the chromium results are less than the total chromium detection limit for reporting (DLR) of 10 ug/L.

4. **What analytical test methods must be used?**
   To determine hexavalent chromium concentrations, Department-approved methods must be used. Currently, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency analytical methods 218.6 or 218.7 are approved by the Department and the analysis must be performed by laboratories that have been certified by the ELAP to perform testing.

5. **What happens if my initial hexavalent chromium monitoring result exceeds the hexavalent chromium MCL? In other words, how is compliance determined?**
   In general, a result exceeding the MCL triggers quarterly monitoring. See Section 64432(g) and (h) for further details regarding options pertaining to confirmation sampling, reporting, and resulting follow-up compliance monitoring and actions. As with other inorganic contaminants with MCL's based on chronic health risks, compliance is determined by whether a running annual average of monitoring results exceeds the MCL. If a result exceeds the MCL, but is less than or equal to 100 ug/L, within 48 hours you must contact our Department. If a result exceeds 100 ug/L, within 24 hours you must resample and contact this Department. The Department will guide you through follow-up actions that must be taken.

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Jones at (760) 863-7570.