



August 21, 2020

Mr. E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request to Adopt Updated Maximum Contaminant Level for Chromium-6**

Dear Chair Esquivel:

As members of the California Legislature, we write to urge the State Water Resources Control Board to release a maximum contaminant level (MCL) package for Chromium-6 based on the public health goal (PHG) for that contaminant by the end of this year, which will put the State in a strong position to adopt a final MCL by late 2021. An updated MCL is urgently needed to protect public health, especially in our most vulnerable communities, and there is no reason for the Board to delay in taking this critical step forward.

Also known as hexavalent chromium, Chromium-6 is a toxic substance known to cause cancer, birth defects, genetic disorders, and a number of other dangerous and even lethal health conditions if not carefully contained. Unfortunately, as Clean Water Action recently reported, Chromium-6 contamination has been found in nearly 2,500 drinking water sources across California, in all but seven of the State's 58 counties.<sup>1</sup> Just a few years ago, many communities were on their way to addressing the threat of Chromium-6 contamination thanks to the State Water Resources Control Board's previous MCL. But progress was halted when that MCL was invalidated on procedural grounds by the Superior Court for Sacramento County in *California Manufacturers and Technology Association v. California Department of Public Health* (2017), due to the State having failed to conduct an economic feasibility analysis prior to promulgating the standard.

A new MCL is desperately needed to protect public health and water quality. The new standard, however, should be stronger than the previous MCL and reflect the amount of contamination deemed safe for consumption in the PHG for Chromium-6. Since the previous MCL was developed, new technologies have emerged that can detect and treat Chromium-6 at lower concentrations than ever. Meanwhile, the State has arguably never been as focused on ensuring that all residents have access to safe and affordable drinking water as it is today. In the past, the State Water Resources Control Board has conveyed that a new MCL for Chromium-6 is a priority and the time has come for it to take further action on behalf of vulnerable Californians.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Dangers of Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium 6) in California Drinking Water," Clean Water Action, accessed July 29, 2020: <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/features/dangers-hexavalent-chromium-chromium-6-california-drinking-water>.

We look forward to working with you further to adopt an MCL that we can enthusiastically support. We request that you keep the office of Assemblymember Robert Rivas up-to-date on your efforts in this area. Please feel free to contact Mr. Rivas directly or work through his staff: Miles Horton at (916) 319-2030 or [miles.horton@asm.ca.gov](mailto:miles.horton@asm.ca.gov). Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



ROBERT RIVAS  
Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District



BEN ALLEN  
Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> District



EDUARDO GARCIA  
Assemblymember, 56<sup>th</sup> District



BILL QUIRK  
Assemblymember, 20<sup>th</sup> District



LAURA FRIEDMAN  
Assemblymember, 43<sup>rd</sup> District



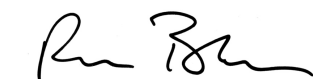
MARK STONE  
Assemblymember, 29<sup>th</sup> District



TODD GLORIA  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District



KANSEN CHU  
Assemblymember, 25<sup>th</sup> District



RICHARD BLOOM  
Assemblymember, 50<sup>th</sup> District



JOAQUIN ARAMBULA  
Assemblymember, 31<sup>st</sup> District