

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Notice to Interested Parties**

March 28, 2025

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF A SECOND DRAFT TECHNICAL
SUPPORT DOCUMENT FOR PROPOSED HEALTH-PROTECTIVE
CONCENTRATION FOR NONCANCER EFFECTS OF HEXAVALENT
CHROMIUM IN DRINKING WATER**

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the availability of a second draft document describing a proposed health-protective concentration (HPC) for noncancer effects of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in drinking water, as part of the process of updating the Cr(VI) Public Health Goal (PHG). A separate document describing the derivation of the HPC for cancer effects will be released at a later date.

A PHG is the level of a drinking water contaminant at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. Cr(VI) is a known human carcinogen. For carcinogens, HPCs are determined for both cancer and noncancer effects, and the lowest (most health-protective) value is selected as the PHG. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996¹ requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations.² PHGs published by OEHHA are considered by the State Water Resources Control Board in setting drinking water regulatory standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) for California.³

The second draft technical support document, posted on the OEHHA website (<https://oehha.ca.gov/water>), presents the scientific information available on the noncancer toxicity of Cr(VI), and the calculation of the proposed HPC for noncancer effects. The proposed HPC of 5 parts per billion (ppb) is based on chronic liver inflammation in female rats exposed to Cr(VI) in drinking water. While the proposed HPC remains the same in the second draft document, revisions providing greater clarity and transparency were incorporated in response to public and peer review comments.

The first draft technical support document was released for a 45-day public comment period in November 2023, and underwent an external scientific peer review in March 2024. The second draft technical support document is being released for a 30-day public comment period that begins March 28, 2025 and ends April 28, 2025.

¹ Codified at Health and Safety Code, section 116270 *et seq.*

² Health and Safety Code, section 116365(c)

³ Health and Safety Code, section 116365(a) and (b)

The public is encouraged to submit written comments via OEHHA's website, rather than in paper form. Comments may be submitted electronically through the following link: <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>.

Hard-copy comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to the address below. Any written comments concerning the proposed HPC, regardless of the form or method of transmission, must be received by the PHG program by April 28, 2025, to be considered.

OEHHA is subject to the California Public Records Act and other laws that require the release of certain information upon request. If you provide comments, please be aware that your name, address, and e-mail may be available to third parties.

Following the public comment period, OEHHA will evaluate all the comments received and revise the document as appropriate. The final document will be posted on the OEHHA website along with responses to the external peer review comments and to major comments received during the two public comment periods.

If you would like to receive further information on this announcement or have questions, please contact Hermelinda Jimenez at PHG.Program@oehha.ca.gov or at (916) 324-7572. Written inquiries should be sent to:

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