State Water Resources Control Board

Placer County Clerk
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn,?CA?95603

Dear County Clerk:

TRANSMITTAL OF A NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has completed a draft Environmental Impact Report for Adoption of a Regulation for the Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level. The State Water Board is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As required by Public Resources Code, section 21092.3, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is hereby transmitting a *Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report* (Notice) for posting in the County Clerk's office pursuant to CEQA. **On June 16, 2023, please post the Notice in your office and on your office's internet website and maintain the posting through August 4, 2023.**

Please note that payment of a fee is not required for posting the Notice, pursuant to section 6103 of the Government Code.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact me by e-mail at kim.niemeyer@waterboards.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 341-5547.

Sincerely,

Kim Niemeyer
Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board

POSTED JUN 16 2023
Through
RYAN RONCO, COUNTY CLERK
By
Deputy Clerk

Encl.: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act for Adoption of a Regulation for the Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).
State Clearinghouse Number: 2021110099.
Project Description: The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing to adopt a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium (Proposed Regulations), under the California Safe Drinking Water Act, which applies to public water systems. The Proposed Regulations include a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium of 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and a detection limit for purposes of reporting of 0.1 µg/L. Public water systems, depending on type, would be required to monitor their drinking water for hexavalent chromium on an initial and ongoing basis, and would need to comply with the MCL according to a compliance schedule. The Proposed Regulations include three best available technologies for removing hexavalent chromium from drinking water sources, including reduction/coagulation/filtration, ion exchange, and reverse osmosis. However, public water systems are not limited to treatment using best available technologies and may consider other means of compliance, such as blending, drilling a new well, increasing reliance on surface water, purchasing water from or consolidating with another water system, or using another form of treatment such as stannous chloride.
Project Location: The Proposed Regulations apply to public water systems operating in California. Public water systems with hexavalent chromium contamination above the MCL will likely implement compliance projects, such as installation of treatment or obtaining new sources of supply. The locations of future compliance projects by public water systems are not currently known. Accordingly, it is unknown whether future compliance projects by public water systems will occur on properties with hazardous waste sites on any list specified under section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
Anticipated Significant Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant impacts on the following resources: Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. Because there is inherent uncertainty in where public water systems will locate future compliance projects, the nature of those compliance projects, and in the mitigation measures that will be required by the CEQA lead and responsible agencies for those compliance projects, the Draft EIR takes a conservative approach in making post-mitigation significance conclusions and finds that the potentially significant impacts are unavoidable.
Availability of Draft EIR: The Draft EIR will be available online beginning June 16, 2023, at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.html.
Hardcopies of the Draft EIR and appendices may also be reviewed at the State Water Board's headquarters at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or at one of the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water field offices in Redding, Santa Rosa, Richmond, Monterey, Carpinteria, Glendale, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, San Diego, Lodi, Fresno, or Bakersfield. The document is available by appointment only. Addresses of field offices are available at
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf.
Please email the Division of Drinking Water (ddw-hexavalentchromium@waterboards.ca.gov) to schedule an appointment. The Draft EIR and appendices are also available at the Sacramento County Public Law Library at 609 9th Street in Sacramento.
Public Review Period: Interested persons are encouraged to submit their comments electronically. Comment letters can be submitted by email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620 with the subject "Comment Letter – DEIR Hexavalent Chromium MCL." To be fully considered, written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on August 4, 2023**. Written comments may also be delivered by mail to: Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000. The State Water Board requests but does not require that, if reports or articles in excess of 25 pages are submitted in conjunction with the comments, the commenter provide a summary of the report or article and describe the reason for which the report or article is being submitted or its relevance to the DEIR or the Proposed Regulation.
Due to the limitations of the e-mail system, emails larger than 15 megabytes (MB) may be rejected and will not be delivered and received by the State Water Board. Therefore, emails larger than 15 MB should be submitted under separate emails or via another form of delivery.

Public Hearing: The State Water Board will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the Proposed Regulations and the Draft EIR. The hearing will be held on August 2, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Details about the meeting will be posted at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.html.
Email Distribution List: To sign up to receive future email announcements concerning the Proposed Regulations, please enroll in the email subscription for "Drinking Water Program Announcements" at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html.
Further Questions: Questions about this Notice of Availability may be directed to ddw-hexavalentchromium@waterboards.ca.gov or to Kim Niemeyer at (916) 341-5547.