

email
Forum to H&A

From: Lisa Catapano <lcatapano@nrdc.org>
To: <mbaes@oehha.ca.gov>
Date: 10/2/2009 2:59 PM
Subject: Attn: PHG Project - Finalize hexavalent chromium Public Health Goal now

Oct 2, 2009

Michael Baes
1515 Clay Street, 16th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Baes,

I commend your office for conducting a high-caliber, scientifically sound risk assessment for hexavalent chromium. This known human carcinogen does not belong in our drinking water, and it is critically important for California to move forward quickly to finalize a Public Health Goal so that a legally enforceable standard can be put in place to protect public health.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment correctly based the health assessment on the best available science from the National Toxicology Program, and made realistic and reasonable assumptions to

protect children and adults from this toxic substance. It is clear that the old arguments that hexavalent chromium causes cancer only after inhalation -- not ingestion -- are wrong. Drinking water contaminated with this chemical is a serious health hazard, and this issue requires immediate attention and action.

The California legislature required that the state finalize an enforceable drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium by 2004.

This public health goal is years overdue and must be finalized promptly in order to allow a legally enforceable standard to be set.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lisa Catapano
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San Francisco, CA 94104-4540

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