

From: Jason Gische
To: Michael Baes
Date: 2/7/2011 9:11 AM
Subject: Urgent action needed to protect public from hexavalent chromium

Dear Mr. Baes:

Today, the health of over 13 million Californians is threatened by hexavalent chromium in their drinking water. It is imperative that we establish a stringent Public Health Goal (PHG) immediately that will protect all Californians, including children and other vulnerable populations. That is why I am writing to register my strong support for OEHHA's proposed PHG of .02 parts per billion (ppb) for this deadly contaminant.

Despite specious challenges to this PHG by polluters and even some water agencies, OEHHA's scientific analysis of the health threat posed by hexavalent chromium in drinking water has stood up to extensive peer review. Your department is to be commended for their excellent work that focuses on setting scientifically defensible health goals, instead of basing them on the economic concerns of those responsible for the contamination. I urge you to continue to stand up to polluter pressure and delay tactics and to finalize the .02 ppb PHG as soon as the required 30-day public comment period is over.

Without a PHG, California cannot set a drinking water standard that will protect public health. We are already 7 years late in establishing that standard, and thus in violation of state law.

Please stop the cycle of delay and move the hexavalent chromium health goal forward immediately.

Mr Jason Gische