

California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
February 09, 2026

**NOTICE OF FINALIZATION OF HEALTH-PROTECTIVE CONCENTRATION FOR
NONCANCER EFFECTS OF HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM IN DRINKING WATER**

On February 09, 2026, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency finalized a 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). The noncancer HPC of 5 parts per billion (ppb) is based on chronic liver inflammation in female rats exposed to Cr(VI) in drinking water. 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 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 HPC for noncancer effects. A companion document that contains responses to comments from the two public comment periods and the external scientific peer review conducted pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 57004 is also available on the website.

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.

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

² Health and Safety Code, section 116365(c).

³ Health and Safety Code, sections 116365(a) and (b).