

October 18, 2011

Fran Kammerer
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

Re: Proposed Amendment to Section 25707(b), Route of Exposure: Hexavalent Chromium (VI)

To Whom It May Concern:

Environmental Working Group is a research and advocacy nonprofit with considerable expertise in water quality and water contaminants. Our goal is to bring the best data and science to bear to inform the development of policy to protect our nation's source waters and provide safer drinking water to all Americans. To this end, our December 2010 study documenting the presence of hexavalent chromium in drinking water from 31 of 35 U.S. cities (ewg.org/chromium6-in-tap-water) brought significant favorable attention to the state of California's assessment of the public health risks of this potent and ubiquitous water contaminant.

With this letter, we first wish to commend the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment for its July 27, 2011 finalization of the public health goal for hexavalent chromium. We are proud to support the state of California in establishing a modern and protective public health standard for this potent contaminant, the first in the nation and the world, based on the agency's robust assessment of the scientific evidence documenting carcinogenic activity.

Further, we wish to register our support for the proposed amendment to Title 27, California Code of Regulations Section 25707, which would remove statements out of alignment with the new public health goal, namely the reference in Section 25707(b)(4) suggesting that hexavalent chromium poses no significant risk when ingested. Prompt attention to such details is vital for this matter of significant public health concern.

We thank OEHHA for this opportunity to comment on its ongoing efforts to protect Californians from carcinogens and assure residents have access to safe drinking water, and we look forward to working with the agency on this critical mission in the future.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sutton, Ph.D. Renée Sharp
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