April 21, 2017

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO ABATE ELEVATED HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM LEVELS IN THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT

On December 20, 2016, your Board instructed the Department of Public Health (DPH) to report back monthly on the progress to abate the endangerment posed by elevated hexavalent chromium ("Chromium-6") emissions in the City of Paramount. This fourth monthly progress report provides information on four key elements of the interagency response: air quality monitoring, soil assessment, enforcement, and public communication. DPH is a part of an interagency team consisting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Los Angeles County Fire Department, California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Air Quality Monitoring
Air quality monitoring by SCAQMD continues across the City of Paramount in order to identify and address sources of Chromium-6. Monitoring is focused on several geographic areas: compliance monitoring points previously established outside of the Anaplex Corporation (Anaplex) and Aerocraft Heat Treating Company, Inc. (Aerocraft) facilities, the southern investigation area approximately a half-mile south of these facilities, and 11 area schools.

When Chromium-6 emissions (measured over a 24-hour period) at the compliance monitoring points exceed 1 nanogram per meter cubed (ng/m³), SCAQMD requires shut-down of all operations that contribute to Chromium-6 emissions. Over the last month, Chromium-6 concentrations in air immediately outside both the Anaplex and Aerocraft facilities continued to remain below the compliance standard of 1 ng/m³. As shown in the table below, the compliance monitors and the closest downwind residential monitor show a downward trend in Chromium-6 concentrations.
Hexavalent Chromium Monitoring Results (ng/m³) – Aerocraft, Anaplex and Nearby Residential Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Residential 300 ft downwind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017*</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Grey shading indicates air monitoring was not conducted for this location during month listed. *April results reflecting data for the entire month will be provided in the next monthly report.

Monitoring in the southern investigation area is focused on metal facilities in and around Jackson Street, between Minnesota Avenue and Illinois Avenue, in the City of Paramount. In this area, Chromium-6 concentrations in air range from 0.1 to 3.6 ng/m³, with 22% of the samples exceeding the 1 ng/m³ standard. SCAQMD and partner agencies are investigating additional potential source facilities in this area.

SCAQMD has expanded its monitoring from 7 schools last month to a total of 11 schools this month. The four additional schools with monitors are Los Cerritos, Tanner, Paramount High School West, and Roosevelt. Chromium-6 levels at these four schools range from 0.06 to 0.9 ng/m³, with averages that appear similar to levels found in other areas of Los Angeles. As reported previously, Lincoln Elementary School has an average Chromium-6 level of 0.5 ng/m³, which is higher than the range of typical outdoor air levels. Although these results do not indicate an immediate health risk, DPH has recommended to the interagency team and Paramount Unified School District that indoor testing at the schools should be conducted to assess potential long-term exposure at schools in Paramount. DPH is preparing the recommended scope of testing and will provide it to Paramount Unified School District by May 1, 2017. If expanded testing shows that Chromium-6 emissions have impacted indoor environments, schools can take appropriate steps to reduce exposure, such as air filter installation and other air system improvements.

Soil Assessment

DPH has reviewed soil samples that the Fire Department collected near Anaplex and Aerocraft and tested for metals. The results indicate that these soils contain metals at levels exceeding both hazardous waste levels and human health screening levels that are designed to protect outdoor workers from long-term health risks. In response to soil Chromium-6 levels above hazardous waste thresholds, the Fire Department ordered Aerocraft to clean up soils around its property. The soil clean-up plan is currently under review with the Fire Department. On April 20, 2017, DPH met with the Fire Department and DTSC to plan for ongoing soil investigations, which include expanded sampling beyond the industrial area to test soils adjacent to residential areas.

Enforcement

Joint agency inspections are ongoing and continue to focus on both closed and active metal facilities across the City of Paramount. Pending source investigation results and discovery of
other metal operations that are emitting elevated levels of Chromium-6, SCAQMD and DPH may need to enact and enforce the 1 ng/m³ compliance standard for other facilities in the City of Paramount. Enforcing this compliance standard requires facilities to reexamine their operations and implement emission controls, such as building enclosures, ventilation systems, and improved housekeeping practices. The intended outcome of these actions is continued reduction of Chromium-6 emissions in the City of Paramount.

**Communication**

DPH organized a health fair in Paramount on April 8, 2017 as part of Public Health Week activities. Multiple members of the interagency team participated in the health fair; CDPH prepared a new fact sheet on the interagency coordination efforts that was provided to local residents and SCAQMD demonstrated its air monitoring equipment to the public. To continue to keep the community informed, DPH is preparing a revised fact sheet for residents about the most recent air monitoring and soil sampling results, and will coordinate with the City of Paramount staff to distribute the fact sheet to community stakeholders. DPH continues to participate in local community activities to ensure that are informed, can access needed services, and have their questions answered.

DPH will continue to work closely with SCAQMD, the Fire Department, and County Counsel to report monthly on progress to protect the public’s health in the City of Paramount. If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

BF:ab

c: Chief Executive Officer
   County Counsel
   Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
   Fire Department