May 17, 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 fifth 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 the 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 seven area schools. In the past month, the City of Paramount deployed five monitors, three of which have been co-located with SCAQMD monitors to validate their performance by comparing findings.

When Chromium-6 emissions (measured over a 24-hour period) at the compliance monitoring points outside of Anaplex and Aerocraft exceed 1 nanogram per meter cubed (ng/m³), the SCAQMD requires shut-down of all operations that contribute to Chromium-6 emissions. Over the last month, no shut-downs have been triggered, and there is a continued downward trend in Chromium-6 levels near these two facilities, which can be observed in the table below.
Hexavalent Chromium Monitoring Results (ng/m³) – Aerocraft, Anaplex and Nearby Residential Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Residential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aerocraft</td>
<td>Anaplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Grey shading indicates air monitoring was not conducted for this location during month listed.

While Chromium-6 emissions in the original investigation area have remained below the compliance standard of 1 ng/m³, emissions in the southern investigation area (in and around Jackson Street, between Minnesota Avenue and Illinois Avenue) remain elevated. In April 2017, Chromium-6 concentrations in air ranged from 0.09 to 4.5 ng/m³, with 34% of the samples in exceedance of 1 ng/m³. Additionally, average concentrations in the southern investigation area have increased from 0.6 ng/m³ in December 2016 to 1.2 ng/m³ in April 2017. This general upward trend indicates the need for facilities in this southern investigation area to take all necessary actions to reduce Chromium-6 emissions.

Using data collected over the past several months, SCAQMD determined that the average Chromium-6 concentrations at four schools did not warrant further investigation and monitoring has since been discontinued at these locations (Alondra Middle, Keppel Elementary, Wirtz Elementary, Zamboni Middle). Outdoor air monitoring by SCAQMD continues at seven schools: Lincoln Elementary, Los Cerritos Elementary, Lynn Mokler Elementary, Paramount High School West, Roosevelt Elementary, Tanner Elementary, and Wesley Gaines Elementary. In April 2017, Chromium-6 levels at these schools ranged from 0.03 to 0.6 ng/m³, with averages that appear similar to levels found in other areas of the County. The average Chromium-6 concentration at Lincoln Elementary School was 0.3 ng/m³ during the month of April, which is an improvement from levels detected during previous months.

DPH met with representatives from Paramount Unified School District on May 4, 2017 to review measures the District has taken to reduce potential exposure and discuss DPH recommendations regarding indoor environmental sampling. The District provided an overview of its indoor air quality standards and practices, which include frequent maintenance of air filters and air handling systems, and commercial-grade surface cleaning. DPH provided the District with recommendations for indoor air sampling to help confirm the effectiveness of current preventive practices.
Soil Assessment
In response to an order by the Fire Department, Aerocraft has begun cleaning up soil in flower beds and public areas around its facility. On May 1, 2017, the Fire Department issued a similar order to Anaplex to clean up soil outside its facility based on new sample results.

Further, DPH worked with the Fire Department to draft a plan and sample soil from 10 locations in public areas adjacent to residential areas that are downwind of the Anaplex and Aerocraft facilities. DPH will reconvene with the Fire Department and DTSC to discuss next steps when results from this sampling are available.

Enforcement
Pending ongoing source investigation results, the 1 ng/m³ compliance standard for additional metal facilities in the City of Paramount may need to be required and enforced. In addition, in the course of ongoing investigation activities, SCAQMD identified occupational health concerns at two metal polishing shops in the investigation area. SCAQMD referred these facilities to DPH and the state’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). On May 9, 2017, staff from DPH conducted an environmental and occupational assessment at one of the facilities, which included a walkthrough, limited testing, and worker interviews. DPH will conduct a similar assessment of the second facility, and follow-up with a report to document key findings and recommendations. This report will be made available to both the facility operators and partner agencies.

Communication
DPH prepared a revised fact sheet to inform Paramount residents about the most recent air monitoring and soil sampling results and is coordinating with the City of Paramount to broadly distribute the fact sheet over the coming weeks. This will include participating in several events in May and June 2017 to provide the fact sheet to community members and answer questions related to the ongoing investigation and interagency response. These events will include a weekly farmers market, a series of summer concerts, and a local heritage festival.

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