

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor John J. Benoit, District 4

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** September 27, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2013-255 expressing concern regarding the California Department of Public Health's Chromium-6 Drinking Water rulemaking process.


**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support safe drinking water; and
2. Support Resolution No. 2013-255 expressing concern regarding the California Department of Public Health's Chromium-6 Drinking Water rulemaking process;
3. Direct the Executive Office to forward the Resolution to the State Department of Public Health prior to the comment deadline of October 11, 2013, and;
4. Direct the Executive Office to engage our legislative advocates to monitor this issue on behalf of the County.

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Department of Public Health has proposed a drinking water maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per billion for chromium-6, thereby setting the first drinking water standard for chromium-6 in the United States. The effects of chromium-6 are still being evaluated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the scientific knowledge continues to evolve.

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John J. Benoit, Supervisor  
Fourth Supervisorial District

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist. ALL

AGENDA NO. **3-18**

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FORM 11: Support for Resolution No. 2013-255 expressing concern regarding the California  
Department of Public Health's Chromium-6 Drinking Water rulemaking process**

**DATE: September 27, 2013**

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Chromium-6 is a naturally occurring substance in the Coachella Valley's groundwater, and not the result of industrial sources. The Coachella Valley Water District estimates that compliance with the proposed standard throughout the Coachella Valley may increase customer water bills by more than \$500 per year. The California Department of Public Health's estimated cost of \$64 per year for the size of public water systems found in the Coachella Valley severely underestimates the cost impacts to Coachella Valley ratepayers, and the true cost of this proposed regulation would create an undue economic hardship.

The draft regulatory compliance schedule for the drinking water standard will place the public water systems into a position of certain noncompliance, without allowing water systems adequate time to install treatment facilities to meet compliance, as is the case for drinking water regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors support safe drinking water, but urges the California Department of Public Health to recalculate the economic impacts of a chromium-6 drinking water standard using updated information, to use the revised cost figures in their deliberations in the standard-setting process, and to balance the public health benefits with the economic impacts, as required by law. The Board urges the State to ensure the effective date of new drinking water standards provides public water systems adequate time to install treatment facilities to avoid certain noncompliance.

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2013-255

3 EXPRESSING CONCERNS OVER THE CHROMIUM-6 DRINKING WATER RULEMAKING PROCESS

4 Whereas the California Department of Public Health has proposed a drinking water maximum  
5 contaminant level of 10 parts per billion for chromium-6, thereby setting the first drinking water standard  
6 for chromium-6 in the United States; and

7 Whereas the understanding of the health effects of chromium-6 is still being evaluated by the U.S.  
8 Environmental Protection Agency and the knowledge continues to evolve; and

9 Whereas chromium-6 is naturally occurring in the Coachella Valley's groundwater, and not as a  
10 result of industrial sources; and

11 Whereas through the Coachella Valley Water District's experience with constructing and  
12 operating water treatment facilities for chromium-6 removal from groundwater has shown the cost to  
13 comply with the proposed standard throughout the Coachella Valley may increase customer water bills  
14 by more than \$500 per year; and

15 Whereas the California Department of Public Health's estimated cost of \$64 per year for the size  
16 of public water systems found in the Coachella Valley severely underestimates the cost impacts to  
17 Coachella Valley ratepayers, and the true cost of this proposed regulation would create an undue  
18 economic hardship; and

19 Whereas the California Department of Public Health's regulatory compliance schedule for the  
20 proposed chromium-6 drinking water standard will place public water systems into a position of certain  
21 noncompliance, without allowing water systems adequate time to install treatment facilities to meet  
22 compliance, as is the case for drinking water regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection  
23 Agency.

24 Now, therefore, it be resolved that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors goes on record as  
25 supporting safe drinking water, but urging the California Department of Public Health to recalculate the  
26 economic impacts of a chromium-6 drinking water standard using updated information, to use the revised  
27 cost figures in their deliberations in the standard-setting process, and to balance the public health  
28 benefits with the economic impacts, as required by law; and

1           Be it further resolved that the California Department of Public Health is urged to ensure the  
2 effective date of new drinking water standards provides public water systems adequate time to install  
3 treatment facilities and avoid certain noncompliance.

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