



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

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Gray Davis
Governor

April 23, 2002

George Flores, M.D.
Public Health Officer
San Diego County Health
and Human Services Agency
1700 Pacific Highway, Room 311
San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Dr. Flores and the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

In January of this year, I notified you of the results of ambient hexavalent chromium monitoring conducted in December 2001 by the staff of the Air Resources Board (ARB) near two chrome-plating facilities, Carlson & Beuloye Machine Shop (Carlson & Beuloye) and Master Plating, located in San Diego County. Carlson & Beuloye is located at 2141 Newton Avenue and Master Plating is located at 2109 Newton Avenue in the Barrio Logan region of San Diego. Since that time, the ARB and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDCAPCD) have continued to monitor for hexavalent chromium. On April 6, 2002, we once again detected an unexpectedly high level of hexavalent chromium near these two chrome-plating facilities.

On April 6, an outdoor concentration of 21 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m^3) was measured at the residence between the two chrome-plating facilities. This concentration was similar to that measured in December 2001 in the alley behind the two chrome-plating facilities. While this single measurement is very high, it is not representative of the more routine concentrations of hexavalent chromium measured at the residence. For example, the average concentration of hexavalent chromium at this residence since monitoring began in December was about $1.0 \text{ ng}/\text{m}^3$. Also on April 6, an indoor concentration of $2315 \text{ ng}/\text{m}^3$ was measured inside at Master Plating. This indoor concentration was over twice as high as the next highest indoor concentration measured at Master Plating. On March 25, the owner of Master Plating voluntarily agreed during court proceedings to cease all chrome-plating operations and a temporary restraining order was then entered, requiring that no chrome-plating be done

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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until further order of the court. We believe that these unexpectedly high concentrations were due to indoor activities, other than plating, taking place within Master Plating. Please be advised that individual sampling results are discrete measurements taken at specific sites and do not represent what the average or typical hexavalent chromium exposures may be on an annual basis in or near these facilities. In subsequent days, the levels of hexavalent chromium returned to lower concentrations more consistent with those measured since December.

Beginning in early February, the ARB and SDAPCD have conducted an intensive monitoring study at the same locations where high levels were detected in December. In addition, we have also conducted indoor monitoring at both chrome-plating facilities and source-tested the control equipment at Carlson & Beauloye. Since early February we have collected over 250 ambient air samples, nearly 50 indoor samples, and four days of source-testing information. The results of this monitoring have been fairly consistent. I am attaching a series of fact sheets that contain a summary of these data that have been prepared and distributed through a workgroup formed by Supervisor Greg Cox. Also attached is a fact sheet prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment that provides information regarding the health effects of hexavalent chromium. This workgroup has met on a regular basis to discuss the monitoring results and related issues. The next scheduled meeting for this workgroup is May 24, 2002.

The ARB and SDCAPCD have been conducting an analysis of the data to determine if the cause of these elevated levels of hexavalent chromium can be determined. We have found that based on the information collected to date, there is a high degree of confidence that the higher levels of hexavalent chromium measured at the residence between the two chrome plating facilities are associated with plating and other activities at Master Plating. This finding is based on several analyses of correlations between indoor concentrations, hexavalent chromium ratios, electricity usage, wind flow patterns, and outside measurements. Additional monitoring at downwind sites of other sources is being collected and evaluated to determine if sources other than Master Plating are contributing to elevated concentrations in the Barrio Logan community.

For further information on this matter, please contact Ms. Linda Murchison, Assistant Chief, Planning and Technical Support Division, at (916) 322-5350. You can also obtain

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information regarding ambient monitoring done in the Barrio Logan area of San Diego County, including hexavalent chromium-related information on the ARB website located at http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/aq_result/barriologan/barriologan.htm.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Venturini, Chief
Stationary Source Division

Attachments

cc: See next page

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cc: Honorable Supervisor Greg Cox
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
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Honorable Supervisor Ron Roberts
Chair of San Diego County Board of Supervisors and
Air Resources Board Member
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
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Mr. Richard J. Smith, Acting Director
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
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Mr. Alan Beauloye
Carlson & Beauloye Machine Shop
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Mr. Mohamed Afcari
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Ms. Linda Murchison, Assistant Chief
Planning and Technical Support Division
Air Resources Board