March 6, 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 second monthly progress report provides information on air quality monitoring, soil assessment, and enforcement of the Chromium-6 emissions standard in the City of Paramount, as well as ongoing public education and communication efforts. DPH continues to collaborate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Los Angeles County Fire Department, and County Counsel.

Air Quality Monitoring
Air quality monitoring continues at both the Anaplex Corporation (Anaplex) and Aerocraft Heat Treating Company, Inc. (Aerocraft). Results for the Anaplex indicate that the average Chromium-6 emissions in February 2017, which were 1.2 ng/m³, are similar to those detected in January 2017, 1.0 ng/m³. Air monitoring results for Aerocraft indicate that the average Chromium-6 emissions in February 2017, which were 0.30 ng/m³, are lower than those detected in January 2017, 0.85 ng/m³. During February 2017, both facilities experienced periods of curtailment after exceeding the SCAQMD-imposed Chromium-6 emissions standard of 1 ng/m³ that was stipulated in the Orders of Abatement. During any curtailment, the SCAQMD requires shut-down of all operations that contribute to Chromium-6 emissions. A facility may resume operations only after the average of three consecutive samples collected over a one-week period no longer exceeds the 1.0 ng/m³ standard. Aerocraft went into curtailment from February 3-15, 2017, and has recently resumed operations under SCAQMD guidance and monitoring. Anaplex went into curtailment on February 15, 2017 and will not resume operations until air monitoring conditions under the Order are met. Of note, Aerocraft recently disputed an SCAQMD air monitoring result that caused the facility to go into curtailment. SCAQMD opposed Aerocraft's dispute, and that matter, along with a supplemental monitoring plan submitted by Aerocraft, is currently under review.
In conjunction with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), SCAQMD is now conducting air sampling for Chromium-6 at schools in the Paramount area. Sampling began at six school sites (Major Lynn Mokler Elementary School, Alondra Middle School, Harry Wirtz Elementary School, Frank Zamboni Middle School, Wesley Gaines Elementary School and Mark Keppel Elementary School), and will continue until all school sites in Paramount are monitored for a minimum of seven valid results. Sampling results are compared to typical Chromium-6 levels found elsewhere in the Los Angeles Basin. Preliminary results have not identified significantly elevated levels of Chromium-6 adjacent to schools. School sampling and related source investigations are ongoing, and DPH will report back to your Board on additional findings as they become available.

**Soil Assessment**

DPH and the Fire Department are working together to review soil samples that were collected near Anaplex and Aerocraft and tested for metals. Preliminary results indicate that Chromium-6 from these two facilities has not traveled more than a two-block radius from the facility perimeters; however, further review of the soil results and more extensive testing is necessary to determine potential exposures and possible health risks to nearby workers and residents. The City of Paramount has contracted with an environmental firm to sample soil at Village Park, which is a skate park west of Carlton Forge Works. The State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing this sampling effort and DPH will work with DTSC to coordinate review and interpretation of its findings.

**Enforcement**

The discovery of elevated levels of Chromium-6 was initially traced back to the operations of two industrial facilities, Anaplex and Aerocraft. SCAQMD expanded its enforcement efforts to the south of these facilities, and has subsequently detected levels of Chromium-6 ranging up to 3 ng/m³ in the vicinity of three other facilities that involve metals or metal processing (Press Forge Co., Weber Metals Inc., and Matco Forge). These preliminary detections do not represent an immediate health risk to residents; however, more investigation is required to characterize the full nature of emissions from these facilities. During the week of February 27, 2017, SCAQMD will conduct an interagency investigation to inspect these facilities and the surrounding areas. DPH is participating in this coordinated investigation. These expanded efforts are essential to determine the extent of potential exposures to the community beyond the emissions from Anaplex and Aerocraft.

SCAQMD has also responded to community reports of odors, which have been traced back to Carlton Forge Works. SCAQMD has issued a total of six Notices of Violation to Carlton Forge Works between January 20, 2017 and February 10, 2017. Carlton Forge Works is working with SCQMD to assess its operations and resolve the odor issues.

**Communication**

DPH continues to respond to inquiries from the Paramount community via telephone and email, and has attended town hall meetings hosted by SCAQMD over the past month. Air monitoring results and information on DPH activities in the City of Paramount are available at [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/airtoxins/](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/airtoxins/). A fact sheet, which DPH provides at meetings and events, is available on this website in both English and Spanish. DPH is also working to make
copies of the fact sheets available at various locations in the community, like health centers and libraries. Community members can also receive updates on a conference call hosted by SCAQMD on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30pm. Information about the call is available at http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/air-monitoring-activities.

To facilitate interagency collaboration, a weekly conference call is hosted by SCAQMD that includes the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Paramount, DTSC, CARB, DPH, and the Fire Department. DPH also meets regularly with the Fire Department to identify additional opportunities, and as an initial activity, firefighters at stations in Paramount will be provided with training on health issues related to exposure to Chromium-6. Further, on February 10, 2017 DPH provided a briefing on Chromium-6 to the Health Officer for the City of Long Beach, as Long Beach is located near the City of Paramount.

**Legislative Activity**
In February, Assembly Bill 1132 was introduced by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia. This bill would authorize the director of SCAQMD to issue an order for abatement pending a hearing before the SCAQMD hearing board, if the director determines that a facility has violated requirements related to the emission of air pollutants and the violation presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare, or the environment. Currently, orders for abatement are only issued after notice and a hearing. Therefore, this bill provides another potential tool to facilitate a swift response to emissions that endanger the public’s health.

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