March 31, 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 third 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 is working closely with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Los Angeles County Fire Department, County Counsel, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Air Quality Monitoring
Air quality monitoring by SCAQMD continues at both the Anaplex Corporation (Anaplex) and Aerocraft Heat Treating Company, Inc. (Aerocraft), and has recently been significantly expanded to an industrial area approximately a half-mile to the south of these facilities. As previously reported, compliance monitoring points have been established at both of these facilities. When Chromium-6 emissions (measured over a 24-hour period) exceed 1 nanogram per meter cubed (ng/m³), SCAQMD requires shut-down of all operations that contribute to Chromium-6 emissions.

Chromium-6 concentrations in air immediately outside both facilities continue to remain more than 10-fold lower than concentrations detected before SCAQMD and DPH issued their Orders for Abatement and Health Directives, respectively. However, both facilities are still regularly exceeding or approaching the 1 ng/m³ standard established for compliance purposes. Moreover, Chromium-6 concentrations remain above typical background levels for the Los Angeles Basin, which range from 0.03 to 0.1 ng/m³. SCAQMD ordered Aerocraft to shut-down Chromium-6
emitting operations for a third and a fourth time from March 4 to March 7, 2017 and on March 17, 2017 to present, respectively. Anaplex has not been required to shut-down its operations since early February.

SCAQMD, in cooperation with the City of Paramount and CARB, continues to expand its air monitoring to nearby schools and residential areas. As shown in the table below, the downwind residential monitors indicate a downward trend in Chromium-6 concentrations, consistent with the trend observed in the industrial area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>300 ft downwind</th>
<th>1,400 ft downwind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017*</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Grey shading indicates air monitoring was not conducted for this location during month listed. *March results reflect data available to date (March 1 to March 20, 2017).

Since February 2017, SCAQMD has considerably expanded its monitoring to the south of the original investigation area, where several metal plating facilities are located. The 24-hour monitoring results in this southern investigation area range from 0.2 to 3.6 ng/m³, with 20% of the samples in exceedance of 1 ng/m³. SCAQMD and partner agencies are actively investigating potential sources of Chromium-6 in this southern corridor in order to work to address these elevated levels.

Additionally, SCAQMD has expanded its monitoring at two schools near the southern investigation area since mid-February: Alondra Middle School and Mokler Elementary School. Another school located east of Carlton Forge Works, Lincoln Elementary School, is also being monitored. Monitoring results for the three schools are listed below.

- Alondra Middle School: The average Chromium-6 level is 0.2 ng/m³. The highest concentration of 0.4 ng/m³ was observed on February 15, 2017.
- Mokler Elementary School: The average Chromium-6 level is 0.2 ng/m³. The highest concentration of 0.8 ng/m³ was observed on February 27, 2017 and March 14, 2017, corresponding to the same two days where higher levels of 2.0 ng/m³ Chromium-6 were found in the southern investigation area.
- Lincoln Elementary School: The average Chromium-6 level is 0.5 ng/m³. The highest concentration of 1.0 ng/m³ was observed on March 14, 2017.

Given the elevated levels of Chromium-6 found on March 14, 2017, DPH is currently assessing the results from the school monitoring data and working with SCAQMD and DTSC to identify
additional actions needed to better characterize exposure (e.g., assessing the potential need for indoor air sampling at the schools), and to determine any needed remediation.

**Soil Assessment**
DPH has reviewed soil samples that the Fire Department collected near Anaplex and Aerocraft and then tested for metals. The results indicate that soils in planters contain metals at levels in exceedance of both hazardous waste levels and human health screening levels that are designed to protect outdoor workers from long-term health risks. The Fire Department is requiring these soils to be abated, thereby protecting outdoor workers from potential exposure in the future. DPH is working with the Fire Department and other partner agencies to design a soil sampling plan that extends beyond the industrial area and tests soils in nearby residential areas.

**Enforcement**
On March 10, 2017, a joint agency inspection was conducted at five facilities in the southern area of Paramount: Press Forge Co., Weber Metals Inc., Matto Forge, California Air Conveying Corp., and Lubeco Inc. On March 22, 2017, the agencies returned to Lubeco Inc. for additional assessment. Representatives from SCAQMD, CARB, DTSC, Fire Department, and DPH participated, and SCAQMD is compiling the results from these inspections.

**Communication**
DPH continues to respond to inquiries from the Paramount community via telephone and email, and attends town hall meetings hosted by SCAQMD. As part of ongoing outreach to community members, DPH is organizing a health fair in Paramount on April 8, 2017 as part of Public Health Week. The health fair will convene agency and vendor resources to provide a wide variety of free health screenings and community resources, in addition to updates on the Chromium-6 environmental investigation. DPH will utilize the health fair as an opportunity to survey community members for feedback on health resource and information needs. DPH continues to participate in local community activities to ensure that residents 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