

NEWS BRIEF

AMS Brings a Proven and Affordable Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Solution to California's Food Processing Industry

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The state of California has a long history managing hexavalent chromium [Cr(VI)] in its drinking water, a dangerous carcinogenic chemical. While the Cr(VI) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 50 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium remains in California today, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), has been working to reestablish a drinking water standard for Cr(VI) by reevaluating the health information, as well as technologies that can provide effective treatment at lower costs.

In February 2020, the State Water Board released a white paper discussing the economic feasibility analysis of lowering the Cr(VI) MCL and the public was invited to comment and debate.



The California League of Food Producers (CLFP), which represents the food processing industry across the state, submitted comments expressing its concerns about how the State Water Board will approach evaluation of economic feasibility for a new, more stringent, Cr(VI) MCL. Because many food processors own and operate their own water treatment systems, according to CLFP "... it is imperative that drinking water regulations produce public health benefits that are worth the added cost of compliance." The CLFP added, "California food processing facilities cannot sustain unpredictable spikes in the cost of utilizing groundwater resources. ... major increases in groundwater treatment costs will compel some food processors to pursue less costly alternatives, such as abandoning groundwater wells in favor of imported surface water. Increased reliance on imported surface water is at odds with state water policy promoting greater reliance on local resources. It also reduces drought resiliency as the state moves into a period of increasing uncertainty about the reliability of current water supplies."

[Aqua Metrology Systems](#) (AMS), a Sunnyvale, Calif.-based water quality monitoring and treatment solutions company, firmly supports that the State Water Board should reintroduce a new regulatory limit for Cr(VI), and it also understands the imperative need for an economically feasible treatment solution to meet any Cr(VI) MCL because traditional treatment approaches have not been affordable.

This “affordability” issue has surrounded Cr(VI) regulations since 2014 when the state took the lead and released a final Cr(VI) standard of 10 ppb, making California the only government in the U.S. to regulate the chemical in drinking water. It quickly became apparent that the cost of achieving that regulatory limit, which was designed to improve human health and reduce exposure of the consumer to Cr(VI), was going to become very expensive — for big cities, smaller communities, and industries.

To address the lack of an effective and economically viable treatment solution, AMS has developed a low-cost Cr(VI) remediation system that removes this carcinogen to non-detectable levels at a fraction of the cost of traditional treatment systems. AMS’s solution has very low consumable costs and as an in-situ reagent generation process with no toxic waste, it removes the need for transportation, handling and use of chemicals.

“The food processing industries make an important contribution to the California economy and the health and well-being of many Americans. Water is the lifeblood of those who work in the food processing industries. AMS is committed to ensuring that Californians can continue to have access to safe water and a vibrant food industry,” said Rick Bacon, CEO of AMS.

About AMS

[Aqua Metrology Systems Ltd.](#) (AMS) believes real-time water quality analysis and remediation are essential to environmental protection. AMS is a leader in the control of water treatment systems across municipal and industrial sectors in which disinfection byproducts (i.e., THMs) and trace metals are contaminants of concern. AMS’ online analytical instrumentation provides the high-frequency, predictive, accurate and reliable water quality data that are essential to ensuring treatment systems operate efficiently while meeting regulatory and performance standards. AMS is the pioneer of the intelligent water treatment system with its SafeGuard™ H2O, an innovative solution for remediating waterborne and airborne contaminants and resource recovery.

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