

# PRESS RELEASE

## AMS Delivers an Affordable Treatment Solution for Hexavalent Chromium Removal in California

*The SafeGuard™ H2O technology ensures a safe and affordable treatment approach to meet the public health goal (PHG) of 0.02 ppb Cr6 while saving California taxpayers millions of dollars.*

**SUNNYVALE, CA. - 27 April 2020**

Hexavalent chromium (Cr6) in drinking water is a controversial topic in California. The state was one of the first in the nation to issue a drinking water standard for Cr6 when it set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) at 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2014. Merely three years later, the MCL was invalidated when the Superior Court of Sacramento County determined that the California Department of Public Health failed to properly consider the financial impact on utilities and their consumers. The total cost of achieving this goal for Californian taxpayers and consumers was estimated to be in excess of \$700M. The regulation also was anticipated to impact California's food processing industry by driving up costs and negatively affecting competitiveness and employment.



While the regulatory limit of 10 ppb was established to improve public health by reducing exposure to this carcinogenic contaminant, the cost of achieving that level using the technologies available at the time was prohibitive — especially for smaller communities where the annual treatment cost per household was estimated by the state to be between \$6,000- \$7,800.

More than 20 years after the film Erin Brockovich was released [raising political attention and public awareness](#) and concern about Cr6, high levels of the contaminant continue to pose a threat to the health of thousands of consumers. Today, there are more than 2,600 community systems with Cr6 above the PHG serving a population of 12.9 million, according to the California State Water Resources Control Board.

To meet the need for an affordable treatment system that eliminates Cr6 from drinking water supplies and removes the barrier to a lower regulatory limit for this carcinogen, Silicon Valley-based [Aqua Metrology Systems](#) (AMS) embarked on an initiative to develop an intelligent treatment system that would remediate Cr6 at a fraction of the cost of traditional treatment systems and minimize the impact of the regulatory limit on the Californian food processing industry.

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During a [pilot demonstration](#) at the City of Los Banos, Calif., AMS' SafeGuard H2O Cr6 treatment system was unequivocally proven to reduce Cr6 to non-detect levels at an annual cost per household in small communities of less than \$5 per day, far below the cost of bottled water on which many consumers depend.

In comparison to traditional treatment technologies, the scalability of the SafeGuard H2O, from large and small water or industrial treatment systems, to commercial or residential point-of-use systems, provides a cost-effective method to achieve safe water free of toxic contaminants that protects the public and the environment. With SafeGuard H2O, California taxpayers will save millions of dollars while meeting the PGH of 0.02 ppb for Cr6.

The system's versatile automated treatment design incorporates frequent, real-time online Cr monitoring to ensure regulatory standards are being continuously met and enables the Cr6 treatment system to operate unattended. The system's online analyzer helps control operational and treatment costs by quickly detecting changing contaminant levels and reducing associated labor costs, maximizing blend efficiencies and quickly detecting the effectiveness of the remediation process.

"Regulators have faced the difficult challenge of threading the needle of the lowest reasonable Cr6 limit, versus the economic feasibility of the treatment system needed to achieve that. With SafeGuard H2O now there is an affordable way to provide safe drinking water that meets the PHG for Cr6 to thousands of Californian consumers while protecting the California food processing industry and the jobs and health of its employees and their families," said Rick Bacon, CEO of AMS, who added. "The real-time online analyzer integrated into the system provides various operational benefits, especially for remote and unattended wells, and ensures continuous compliance not just when regulators are looking. We also have the option of making that data available to consumers in real-time so they can have confidence that their water is safe before they drink it."

## 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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