

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the priority ranking of potential sites that could have excessive levels of Chromium-6.

Recommendation for Council action:

DIRECT the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) to:

- a. Use the established methodology in determining the priority ranking of potential sites that could be emitting excessive levels of Hexavalent Chromium and to conduct audits of the 39 chrome plating facilities.
- b. Perform canvassing activities of 502 Metal Processing facilities to determine if these facilities perform operations that have the potential to release Hexavalent Chromium fugitive emissions.
- c. Hold a LA Industry Business Symposium for Metal Finishing, Electroplating and Metal Processing facilities in February, 2018 with said symposium to offer sustainable strategies to the businesses to employ a Green Chemistry framework and its 12 principles to support the people, planet and profit in sustaining community vitality and reducing exposure from hexavalent chromium.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the BOS. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Also referred to the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee)

Summary:

On April 17, 2018, your Committee considered a November 16, 2017 BOS report in response to Motion relative to the priority ranking of potential sites that could have excessive levels of Chromium-6. According to the Motion (Ryu - Buscaino - Wesson), Hexavalent Chromium, also known as or Cr(VI), is a carcinogenic air or water-based toxic chemical that gained notoriety in the 1990s when Hinkley, CA, a small farming community in the Mojave Desert, learned that its groundwater was polluted with Hexavalent Chromium, a cancer-causing heavy metal. Hexavalent Chromium had seeped into the water after being dumped into unlined ponds at Pacific Gas & Electric's compressor station in the 1950s and '60s.

According to California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, one form of Hexavalent Chromium, chromic acid, is created as a mist during electroplating when workers and bystanders may inhale the mist. Chromic acid can also be absorbed through the skin. Breathing or drinking Hexavalent Chromium for years or decades can increase the risk of lung and nose cancers.

On November 4, 2016, the SCAQMD reported to the Los Angeles County Department of Public

Health that air monitors had detected excessive levels of Chromium-6 in Paramount, California. The LA County Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Fire Department's Health Hazardous Material Division, the City of Paramount, and the SCAQMD began a joint investigation to identify the sources. The SCAQMD then issued Abatement Orders and Public Health Directives instructing two aerospace manufacturing firms to take all the steps necessary to eliminate the current nuisance endangering public health. The SCAQMD has found metal plating facilities in Paramount where emitting levels of Hexavalent Chromium have been up to 350 times the allowable limits.

On May 5, 2017, the SCAQMD announced the launch of a special air monitoring initiative to sample for Hexavalent Chromium in the Compton area. The SCAQMD looked at areas that had concentrations of the chromium plating and anodizing facilities, with a particular focus on areas that had concentrations near homes, schools, senior centers and other businesses. Due to this analysis, Compton was selected as the next community to deploy special air monitoring efforts. At a town hall on August 2, 2017, it was reported that elevated levels of the carcinogen known as Hexavalent Chromium were found near several metal finishing businesses in Compton after a nearly two month investigation by SCAQMD air quality officials.

On the July 21, 2017 SCAQMD issued a petition for an Order for Abatement against a metal finishing facility in Long Beach, California. The order stated the site was emitting the carcinogenic air toxin, Hexavalent Chromium, at 18 times the normal air background levels. Currently the City of Long Beach's Fire Department, Health Department, Building and Safety Department and SCAQMD are conducting joint inspections to identify other potential sources of elevated levels of Hexavalent Chromium. The SCAQMD, the agency responsible for monitoring air pollution in much of Southern California has detected excessive levels of Chromium-6 in the neighboring Los Angeles cities of Paramount, Compton, and Long Beach.

On April 12, 2017, the SCAQMD requested a list of metal manufacturing, metal heat treating, metal cutting, metal forging, metal extruding, metal cooling, metal plating and metal spray coating facilities in the City of Los Angeles. In reporting back, the CAO identified up to 21,000 metal processing sites in the City that could be potential sources of Hexavalent Chromium.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the November 16, 2018 BOS report, as amended, and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MEMBER	VOTE
MARTINEZ:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES
CEDILLO:	ABSENT

O'FARRELL: YES

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4/17/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-