SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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October 28, 2026

South Coast AQMD Re-Initiates Air Monitoring and Investigation in Paramount

Ongoing City of Paramount monitoring identified hexavalent chromium emissions

Diamond Bar, CA —The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), in coordination with the City of Paramount, has begun enhanced air monitoring and focused investigative activities in an industrial area following elevated hexavalent chromium readings identified through the City's ongoing air monitoring network. As part of these efforts, the agency is also conducting facility inspections, reviewing source testing and permitting information and evaluating potential sources of emissions.

Following South Coast AQMD's extensive 2016–2021 air toxics monitoring and investigation, the City of Paramount has continued monitoring hexavalent chromium, providing an early indication when levels change and working with South Coast AQMD to conduct additional monitoring and investigative follow-up if needed.

Expanded Air Monitoring Underway

Recently, some of the City of Paramount's air monitors detected elevated levels of hexavalent chromium. As a result, South Coast AQMD re-initiated air monitoring efforts to support ongoing compliance, enforcement, and permitting activities. Air monitors are located near the Aerocraft and ProCast facilities, and additional locations were selected to collect data upwind and downwind of metal processing facilities in the general area, as well as within the adjacent community.

The data so far shows a majority of the results to be within background levels; however, data from two sites in the area have shown elevated levels of hexavalent chromium. The purpose of these air monitoring efforts is to help identify potential sources of hexavalent chromium.

Results and information about monitoring locations will be posted as they become available at www.aqmd.gov/paramount.

Other Ongoing Actions

South Coast AQMD is also conducting on-site inspections, reviewing compliance and permitting activities and conducting emissions source testing at metalworking facilities in Paramount. This is an active and ongoing investigation.

Facilities in Paramount are also being evaluated as part of the AB 2588 Air Toxics Hot Spot Program. The AB 2588 program evaluates toxic air contaminant emissions and potential health risks from existing facilities. AB 2588, which is implemented through South Coast AQMD's Rule 1402, requires facilities with potential offsite health impacts to quantify their toxic emissions with an Air Toxics Inventory Report (ATIR), which may include source testing of emission sources.

Additionally, the agency is working on developing Proposed Rule 1435 to address toxic air contaminant emissions from metal heating operations. The proposed rule is expected to go to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board by second quarter, 2027. Information on the proposed rule, including upcoming working group meetings, can be found here.

The current response builds on years of coordination between South Coast AQMD and the City of Paramount.

Hexavalent chromium is a toxic air contaminant and a known human carcinogen.

South Coast AQMD began monitoring air quality in Paramount in 2013 in response to community concerns about metallic odors. Elevated levels of toxic metals identified during subsequent monitoring led to expanded air monitoring, facility investigations, enforcement actions, rule development, and other efforts to identify and reduce sources of emissions.

Extensive monitoring and enforcement efforts beginning in 2016 resulted in substantial reductions in ambient hexavalent chromium levels. South Coast AQMD's current work builds on those efforts and focuses on evaluating recent monitoring results and potential sources of emissions.

Following that investigation, the City of Paramount continued operating an air monitoring network to provide ongoing information about air quality in the community.

Information on the City of Paramount's air monitoring efforts, including data, can be found at: www.paramountenvironment.org/air.

For information on South Coast AQMD's current air monitoring results, compliance and enforcement information, and additional details about the Paramount investigation, visit: www.aqmd.gov/paramount.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.