



*Always There for You!*

## Chromium 6

June 2013

### **Burbank Delivers Quality Drinking Water**

Burbank Water and Power meets all water quality requirements and often exceeds the standards prescribed by federal and state regulations to ensure the city of Burbank receives safe drinking water.

### **Chromium 6 is one form of Chromium**

Chromium is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment. Chromium occurs in different forms in water including Chromium 6. Currently there are regulations for total Chromium but not for Chromium 6.

Chromium is used in a number of industrial applications such as the aerospace industry. Aerospace was a dominant industry in Burbank and Chromium has entered water supplies as a result of past waste-disposal practices.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants, such as Chromium, in water provided by public water systems.

Since the 1980s the EPA has been monitoring the groundwater in Burbank and the San Fernando Basin for Chromium.

### **Burbank's Standards are Higher than State and Federal for Chromium**

Burbank is committed to providing safe drinking water. In 2000, the Burbank City Council required the water utility to adhere

### **Highlights At A glance**

- Chromium is a naturally occurring metal in the environment and occurs in different forms.
- Chromium currently has regulations but not Chromium 6.
- Burbank City Council required the water utility to adhere to Chromium standards 10 times less than the state and 20 times less than the federal regulations.
- California published the nation's first Public Health Goal for Chromium 6 paving the way for setting a standard for Chromium 6 that is technically and economically feasible.

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The current maximum legal limits for Chromium are 50 parts per billion at the state and 100 parts per billion at the federal level. Burbank City Council mandated a maximum level of 5 parts per billion for Burbank.

### **Setting a Goal is the First Step toward a California Chromium 6 Standard**

Creating a Chromium 6 standard for drinking water begins with setting a Public Health Goal as part of a multi step process.

In 2011, California published the nation's first official Public Health Goal of 0.02 parts per billion for Chromium 6 in drinking water.

The Public Health Goal of 0.02 parts per billion is a “Platinum Standard” or absolute safety level without considering what is technically or economically achievable. However, a Public Health Goal is the necessary first step to move toward setting an enforceable drinking water standard for water utilities to meet.

### Next Step to Developing a Chromium 6 Standard

California State law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to set Public Health Goals.

The goals provide scientific guidance to the California Department of Public Health in developing enforceable drinking water standards known as Maximum Contaminant Levels or MCLs.

The aim of a MCL is to minimize the risk or hazard of any specific element in drinking water, keeping in mind that some

exposure is acceptable and still achieves a very high degree of safe drinking water.

To illustrate, an MCL would be comparable to having air bags, seat belts, and anti-lock brakes as standard protection features versus a Public Health Goal of never riding in a vehicle at all.

### Best Technologies Used to Treat Burbank Water Supplies

Tap water for Burbank comes from three different sources: local groundwater from the San Fernando Basin, the Colorado River and the State Water Project.

Burbank’s groundwater comes from wells in Burbank and is treated to remove volatile organic contaminants before it is blended with water from other sources and put into our distribution system.

Burbank Water and Power uses the best available technology to ensure the Burbank community continues to be supplied with safe drinking water.

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Burbank Water and Power (BWP) provides water service for the citizens of Burbank.

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*A Water Quality Report is published once a year in Burbank Water and Power's Currents newsletter and is available online at [BurbankWaterAndPower.com](http://BurbankWaterAndPower.com)*