

## CHROMIUM

Source: Chromium is an odorless and tasteless metallic element that is found naturally in rocks, plants, soil, volcanic dust and animals. The most common forms are Chromium-3 and Chromium-6. Chromium-3 is an essential human dietary element. Chromium-6 occurs naturally but can also be produced by industrial processes.

### Drinking Water Standards:

- EPA established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) standard of 100 ppb (parts per billion) for Total Chromium.
  - Chromium-6 is not regulated at the Federal level. EPA is currently reevaluating Chromium-6 through its Integrated Risk Information System, a process that characterizes the potential health risks based on available science. EPA completed a national assessment of the occurrence of both Total Chromium and Chromium-6 as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3).
- California established an enforceable State MCL standard for Total Chromium of 50 ppb that is more stringent than the Federal standard.
  - In 2014, California established an enforceable State level MCL standard of 10 ppb for Chromium-6; however, this standard was invalidated by the Supreme Court of Sacramento due to an issue with the standard setting process related to economic feasibility.
- New Jersey enforces the Federal Total Chromium of 100 ppb and does not have a specific standard for Chromium-6.

SMCMUA is required to monitor for Total Chromium for all sources on an annual basis. Data collected between 2009 and 2019, or over a 10-year period, demonstrate that no sample was greater than 7 ppb, or greater than 7% of the 100 ppb MCL.

SMCMUA monitored for Total Chromium and Chromium-6 as part of a 2015-2016 monitoring program required by EPA referred to as UCMR3. SMCMUA sample results, collected for all sources, are as follows:

- Total Chromium – non-detect to 1.2 ppb (parts per billion)
  - EPA regulates Total Chromium MCL at 100 ppb and CA regulates Total Chromium at 50 ppb, so total values observed for SMCMUA are about 1% of the Federal to 2% of the CA regulated limits.
- Chromium-6 – non-detect to 0.72 ppb
  - Since EPA and NJ do not regulate Chromium-6, we compare SMCMUA values to the California 10 ppb MCL, had it still been in effect. SMCMUA's highest detected value of 0.72 ppb is about 7.2% of the California MCL.