



Express Support for SB 385 (Hueso, D-San Diego) - Primary drinking water standards: hexavalent chromium

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-4

April 13, 2015

SB 385, as Amended April 7, 2015

- Authorizes State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to grant “period of time to achieve compliance” from California drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium (chromium 6)
- Full compliance required by January 1, 2020

SB 385, as Amended April 7, 2015

Continued

- Public water system must:
 - Provide compelling reason why compliance is not presently feasible
 - Secure SWRCB approval of compliance plan
 - Notify customers of plan
 - Update SWRCB on compliance progress
- Public water system is not in violation while seeking or implementing approved plan

Regulatory Background

- No Federal chromium 6 standard
- California standard effective July 1, 2014
 - 10 parts per billion (ppb) maximum contaminant level (MCL)
 - Compliance violations by January 1, 2016
- Metropolitan advocated for reasonable compliance schedule

SB 385 Analysis

- No direct impact to Metropolitan
 - Chromium 6 levels less than 1 ppb
- Metropolitan member agencies have implemented strategies to address regulation
- Additional time is necessary for water utilities throughout state to design, finance, and construct appropriate treatment facilities

SB 385 Analysis

Continued

- Ensures consumers are aware of utility's efforts to meet regulation
- Consistent with Metropolitan's previous position on compliance schedule for chromium 6 regulation

SB 385 Support/Opposition

- Sponsor: Association of California Water Agencies
- Supporters (partial list):
 - American Water Works Association (CA/NV)
 - California Municipal Utilities Association
 - California Water Association
 - City of Watsonville
 - Coachella Valley Water District
 - San Diego County Water Authority
- Opposition:
 - Withdrawn

Options

- Option 1:
 - Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the General Manager to express support for SB 385
- Option 2:
 - Take no position on SB 385

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

