

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



**Kurt E. Floren**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

*Department of  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Weights and Measures*

12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia, California 91006-5872  
<http://acwm.lacounty.gov>



**Richard K. Iizuka**  
Chief Deputy

DATE: September 23, 2010

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair, First District  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District  
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt E. Floren".

SUBJECT: Water Quality Study Ordered by Board of Supervisors

On August 10, 2010, on a motion by 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Michael Antonovich, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an action instructing the Environmental Toxicology Bureau of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) to repeat drinking water tests performed in a 2001 Study, also ordered by the Board of Supervisors through Supervisor Antonovich. The final report was titled "Report on Chromium, Arsenic and Lead in County Facilities 2001 Pilot Study". The final report, submitted to the Board on August 15, 2001, reflected results of a study of water from all County buildings and small well water facilities under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH). The Board's latest instruction directed ACWM to report back to the Board in 45 days.

ACWM has reviewed the parameters of the 2001 study and determined that the following conditions, activities, and expenditures will be required in fulfilling this task:

**Analyses**

All water samples drawn will be tested for presence of:

- Lead
- Arsenic
- Total Chromium
- Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium+6)

All are within the capacity of ACWM's Environmental Toxicology Laboratory.

### Sample Volumes

Based upon records of the 2001 Study, ACWM anticipates a workload consisting of analyses of an approximate total of 1210 samples:

- 220 well water samples
- 990 samples from County Buildings

Samples from wells will be drawn principally by DPH staff, as DPH has ready access to these facilities. Water samples from the County Buildings will be drawn by staff of ACWM's Environmental Toxicology Laboratory.

### Timelines

#### **Water Sample Collection:**

Due to the large geographic area from which samples must be drawn, the collection, documentation, and submission of samples are estimated to take a **minimum of 3 months** under optimum conditions. ACWM will employ two (2) temporary Agricultural Inspector Aids to draw water samples from approximately 990 County facilities. These activities must be conducted in coordination with routine sampling duties required by other annual contracts to which ACWM is obligated, likely requiring overtime. It must be noted that, if sample collection is to be initiated promptly to involve the period from October thru December, rain storm events may occur, requiring immediate responses for stormwater runoff testing (performed by ACWM for Department of Public Works under a DSO). This may result in extensions of the three-month time estimate.

#### **Laboratory Analyses:**

Tests for Chromium+6 must be conducted within 24 hours of sample collection. Tests for Lead, Arsenic, and Total Chromium may be conducted up to six months following sample collection. Due to the time restrictions in performing analyses for Chromium +6, laboratory testing will be conducted concurrently with sample collection and submission. The need to utilize overtime hours is likely. ACWM estimates that **10 complete tests per day** may be completed, **provided no delays are imposed by storm event workloads.**

$$1210 \text{ (water samples)} \div 10 \text{ (per day)} = \mathbf{121 \text{ days} (\sim 4 \text{ months})}$$

Realistic overall collection/analysis estimate: **Approximately Five Months**

**Cost Projections**

**Water Sample Collection:**

2 Agricultural Inspector Aids (Temp):

\$102.264 (ea. per day) x 2 (positions) x 60 (days) = \$ **12,272.00**

**Mileage Costs** (estimated – for sample collection and transport):

12,000 miles @ \$0.465 per mile = \$ **5,580.00**

**Analysis Costs:**

*(Total cost per sample: \$122.72)*

Arsenic test @ \$17.75 (each) x 1210 (samples) = \$ 21,477.50

Lead test @ \$17.75 (each) x 1210 (samples) = \$ 21,477.50

Total Chromium test @ \$17.75 (each) x 1210 (samples) = \$ 21,477.50

Chromium+6 test @ \$69.47 (each) x 1210 (samples) = \$ 84,058.70

. **Total Analysis Costs:** **\$148,491.20**

**Total Cost of Study (estimated):** **\$166,343.20**

ACWM will evaluate results of this study against maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set by the State Department of Public Health, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. EPA for drinking water relative to lead, arsenic, chromium, and chromium+6. A final Report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors to provide information as a basis for further discussion or action.

Please contact Chief Deputy Richard Iizuka at (626) 575-5453 with any questions or additional information that may be required.

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Safety  
Board Deputies