City of Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 17, 2025**

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# Hexavalent Chromium Update

*(Los Banos, CA)* – City of Los Banos receives Hexavalent Chromium Compliance Plan approval from State Water Resources Control Board/Division of Drinking Water; and latest test results released.

## Compliance Plan Approved by State Water Resources Control Board

The City submitted its Compliance Plan to the State Water Resources Control Board; Division of Drinking Water. The Compliance Plan explains how the City will comply with the new October 2024 State regulations mandating a much lower standard for Hexavalent Chromium (CR6) in drinking water.

> *"Late last month, the City filed the required draft Compliance Plan with the State for their review. This Compliance Plan set forth intended engineering, funding, design, construction and schedule for treatment facilities the City believes necessary to comply with the new lower standard for hexavalent chromium in drinking water. That plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on October 1, 2025."*
>
> – Gary Brizzee, Interim City Manager

The Compliance Plan outlines wellhead treatment at each of the City's thirteen current well sites, using a 'Reduction/Coagulation/Filtration' (RCF) method to remove CR6.

The first step outlined in the Compliance Plan, an RCF pilot study, is currently underway. The scope of the pilot study will include:

1. Documenting all pilot study results.
2. Establishing well design flow rates and treatment plant sizing.
3. Establishing a residuals management approach and permitting requirements.
4. Evaluating the feasibility of centralized treatment for multiple wells.
5. Evaluating treatment plant siting and developing preliminary site plans.
6. Estimating capital, operation and maintenance costs.

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Following a successful pilot study, the next steps in the approved Compliance Plan include design of the individual well site systems, identification of funding sources and finally construction of wellhead treatment facilities. The State approved timeline for completion of this treatment project is end of 2030.

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|---|---|
| Anticipated Final Date to complete the Engineering Report | 09/2026 |
| Anticipated Final Date to Submit Plans and Specifications | 09/2028 |
| Anticipated Date of Commencing Construction | 02/2029 |
| Anticipated Date of 100% Complete Construction | 12/2030 |
| Anticipated Date for Final Operations Plan Submittal | 12/2030 |

*"We are committed to working with the State and continuing to provide clean drinking water to our residents; and while we outline 5 steps that may sound simple to complete for this project, it is far from that. This is a highly technical issue that will require significant staff time and resources to complete, but this Council is committed to the success of this project, and our community."*

– Michael Amabile, Mayor.

The City's next milestone is September 2026, when the Engineering Report is due.

**Latest Test Results Released**

The City completed its latest round of required quarterly CR6 testing, and water sample results received on September 24, 2025 showed Hexavalent Chromium levels ranging from 17 to 57 parts per billion (ppb); above the State's new lower maximum contaminant level of 10 ppb. As a result, mandatory notifications are being sent out to residents along with the October billing cycle mailer.

If you have a question or comment on this issue, email us at: hex.chromquestions@losbanos.org; or contact Randy Williamson at (209) 827 2469, at 411 Madison Ave, here in Los Banos.

The compliance plan, schedule, and State approval document can be found at losbanos.org under **https://losbanos.org/important-water-issues/**

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