



Rosamond Community Services District

Official Newsletter of Rosamond Community Services District - January 2026



Chromium Facts

Hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium 6, is an odorless and tasteless metallic element that occurs naturally in the environment from the erosion of natural chromium deposits. The amount of chromium 6 in drinking water is regulated because it is known to cause cancer at high concentrations.

You may have heard about chromium 6 from the 2000 film *Erin Brockovich*, which was about chromium 6 contamination in Hinkley, California. This case is important in the history of drinking water regulation, but the unusually high chromium 6 levels in the drinking water in Hinkley were the result of industrial pollution, not naturally occurring chromium 6.

How much chromium 6 in drinking water is considered safe? The answer depends on who you ask. In 1991, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the maximum permissible level of all chromium, including chromium 6, in public water systems at 100 parts per billion (ppb). The maximum recorded level of chromium 6 in Hinkley, California, drinking water was 580 ppb, almost six times the EPA standard.

The EPA revisited chromium 6 and released a draft of the scientific human health assessment (Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium) for public comment and external peer review in 2010. The EPA's limit for chromium 6 in drinking water remains unchanged.

California has more restrictive rules regarding chromium 6 in drinking water. Since 1977, the California State Water Resources Control Board has set the maximum level of total chromium, including chromium 6, allowed in drinking water at 50 ppb, or half the EPA limit. In 2024, they set the maximum allowable limit of chromium 6 at 10 ppb, or one-tenth the amount considered safe by the EPA.

RCSD water has naturally occurring chromium 6 levels of around 11 ppb, which is well below the EPA limit of 100 ppb but slightly above the new California limit of 10 ppb. This is why RCSD customers recently received notices about chromium 6 levels with their bills.

California water agencies are required to comply with the chromium 6 limits in 2026 through 2028, depending on their size. There are generally two ways to reduce the amount of chromium 6 in water. One way is to blend water with higher levels of chromium 6 with water with lower levels, diluting it to an acceptable level.

The other way is to chemically remove the chromium 6 from the water in a process called ion exchange. This involves installing equipment that uses resin to remove the

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chromium 6. This resin must be regularly regenerated with a brine solution, which then becomes hazardous and must be disposed of properly.

RCSD is evaluating the options available to reduce the chromium 6 levels in our water. Our goal is to meet the California standards while keeping rates as low as possible. Both blending and ion exchange impose increased costs, though ion exchange is considerably more expensive due to the additional equipment required and ongoing resin regeneration. The costs associated with meeting the new California standards will impact the rates our customers pay for water.

You can learn more about chromium 6 at the websites below.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/chromium-drinking-water>
- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.html

Just Turn It Off

Lower your water waste this year with one simple trick: turn off the water when it's not actually in use. It's easy to get a little lazy and leave the water running when we're brushing our teeth, shaving, getting ready to shower, doing the dishes, or washing the car, but every drop of water that doesn't get used is water that is wasted. Be a little more mindful this year and turn off the sink, faucet, or spigot whenever you aren't actively using the water that's flowing. It's a simple little thing that can make a big impact.

District Telephone Outage

On December 22, 2025, an important piece of AT&T infrastructure was vandalized, which caused a phone outage affecting RCSD. This outage prevented our team from making or receiving phone calls from the district office and has taken down our pay-by-phone system.

Phone service had not yet been restored by January 18th. While a temporary solution for the main district phone number has been implemented, pay-by-phone service remains down. To check the status of our phone system, visit our website and look for a banner at the top of the page.

We understand that this can be an inconvenience for our customers and staff, and we are working with AT&T to find solutions. Unfortunately, the way the vandalism was perpetrated is extremely challenging to repair. You can pay your bill using the following methods until RCSD's phone service is restored:

- Pay your bill online by visiting rosamondcsd.com and, on the **QUICKLINKS** panel, clicking **\$ PAY MY BILL**.
- Pay your bill in person at the RCSD office. We are located at 3179 35th Street West, Rosamond, CA 93560. Our office is open

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Wednesdays
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
Closed

