

## SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

**ITEM # 02-7-2:** Barrio Logan: A Case Study of a Neighborhood Assessment

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Informational Item

**DISCUSSION:** The staff of the Air Resources Board will provide the Board with a detailed overview of ambient air sampling for hexavalent chromium conducted in December 2001 through May 2002, in Barrio Logan, a community in San Diego.

The December monitoring results indicated unusually high levels of hexavalent chromium in the vicinity of two chrome plating facilities. The Air Resources Board, in conjunction with the San Diego Air Quality Control District, immediately notified local public officials and the community of Barrio Logan about the results of this monitoring effort. In February, ARB staff resumed ambient air monitoring for hexavalent chromium in an effort to determine the source(s) of the high levels of hexavalent chromium.

The ambient air monitoring for hexavalent chromium continued through May 2002. Monitoring was also conducted inside potential sources. The monitoring results indicated a strong relationship between the emissions at one of the two facilities—Master Plating—and the high outdoor concentrations at one of the residences. The high levels of hexavalent chromium continued until a temporary restraining order was issued against Master Plating. After the business stopped its chrome plating activities, the levels of hexavalent chromium dropped significantly. However, occasional high concentrations did occur when fugitive dust laden with hexavalent chromium was released from the facility.

A local County Supervisor established a working group, consisting of ARB staff, local elected officials, community groups and the residents of Barrio Logan. This group met periodically to inform the community on the findings and issues regarding hexavalent chromium in Barrio Logan.

**SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:**

The ambient air monitoring is now complete and the source of the high levels of ambient hexavalent chromium was determined to be from Master Plating. The San Diego Superior Court has now issued a preliminary injunction to cease chrome plating activities at this facility.