



## A BIG CHALLENGE, AN ACTIVE RESPONSE

In October 2016, the City of Paramount was hit with news from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) that unacceptably high levels of hexavalent chromium had been detected in town. This situation prompted a call to action that produced a textbook example of how cities and regulatory agencies can positively interact. The City has engaged in extensive public outreach and developed constructive partnerships with experts to address air quality for the future. What follows is the story of how Paramount met this daunting challenge.



## GAINING KNOWLEDGE

Air quality and environmental regulations are handled by regulatory experts, not cities. Upon learning about local air quality concerns, Paramount worked aggressively to become an active partner in the solution. The City:

- ▶ Engaged a top-quality environmental consultant.
- ▶ Held frequent phone calls with key regulators to stay current on a dynamic situation.
- ▶ Developed a list of all known metal-related businesses in town.
- ▶ Visited with high-priority businesses to discuss their operations and express air quality concerns.

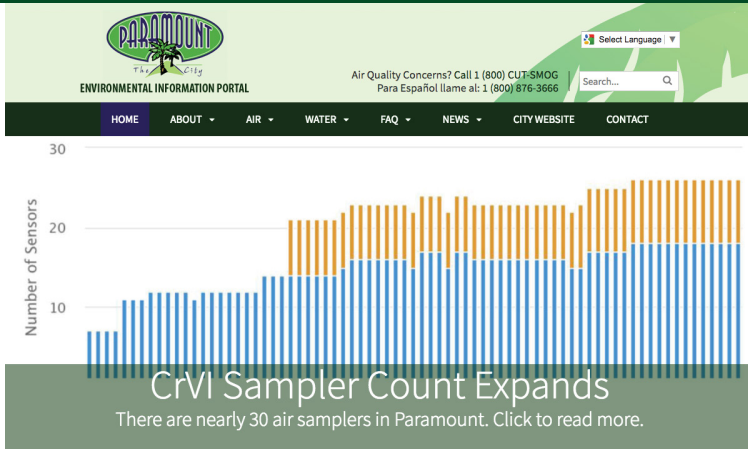
## TAKING ACTION

Within the limits of its expertise and authority, the City identified key actions it could take to help make the situation better or ensure it did not get worse.

The City:

- ▶ Declared a moratorium on new or expanding metal-related businesses.
- ▶ Formed an Air Quality Sub Committee of the City Council to create or modify zoning rules.
- ▶ Launched an innovative new business license review process with SCAQMD.
- ▶ Advocated for legislation and regulations to empower SCAQMD.
- ▶ Dedicated City Code Enforcement Officers to accompany SCAQMD inspectors.





## INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

Much as the City had a learning curve, so too did residents. News stories and public presentations produced technical data and scientific concepts that required explanation. Transparency and public information were viewed as critical to developing long-term strategies. The City:

- ▶ Built an environmental website to provide transparency and access to information.
- ▶ Leveraged communication platforms in English and Spanish to update the community and answer questions.
- ▶ Provided resources to facilitate SCAQMD town hall gatherings to bring the experts to the public.
- ▶ Conducted nearly 20 community meetings to share information and listen to residents.

## INVESTING IN DATA

Environmental concerns require scientific analysis that must come from good data. The City recognized that access to data would be critical to maintaining an ongoing method to ensure good environmental quality in Paramount. The City:

- ▶ Purchased air samplers to add 20% more capacity to monitoring efforts.
- ▶ Performed monthly testing for hexavalent chromium in the City's water supply.
- ▶ Joined DTSC and LA County Public Health in soil testing near known emitters of hexavalent chromium.



# ACHIEVING RESULTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Since October 2016, the City has supported the efforts of environmental regulators to identify the sources of the elevated hexavalent chromium levels. While more work needs to be done, the groundwork developed thus far has better positioned the City of Paramount to work with regulators in the future.

For the latest information about hexavalent chromium or other environmental data, please visit the following websites:

- ▶ SCAQMD - City of Paramount Information page:  
[www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/air-monitoring-activities](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/air-monitoring-activities)
- ▶ City of Paramount Environmental Portal:  
[www.paramountenvironment.org](http://www.paramountenvironment.org)
- ▶ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Air Toxins Page  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/airtoxins/](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/airtoxins/)
- ▶ Cal EPA - Paramount Information Page  
[calepa.ca.gov/enforcement/paramount/](http://calepa.ca.gov/enforcement/paramount/)



**Air Quality Concerns?  
Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG**

**If you have further questions, please  
visit us at [paramountenvironment.org](http://paramountenvironment.org).**

**MAYOR Peggy Lemons**

**VICE MAYOR Diane J. Martinez**

**CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**

**Laurie Guillen**

**Tom Hansen**

**Daryl Hofmeyer**