

# Biomonitoring Public Input Survey

## Welcome to the California Biomonitoring Program Survey!

California's new biomonitoring program is intended to track and evaluate toxic environmental chemicals in California residents. The program will measure environmental chemicals in biological samples, such as blood and urine. This program is just getting underway and we would like you to tell us which chemicals or types of chemicals you think the program should measure in the future. Because there are many more environmental chemicals than the program will be able to measure, we are also asking you to tell us what should influence the choice of which chemicals the program should measure.

Opinions provided by people responding to this survey about chemicals and program priorities will be shared in summary form with the program's Scientific Guidance Panel, which will recommend chemicals to measure. (The Panel is a group of outside experts that, by law, provides advice on the state biomonitoring program.) Panel members and program staff are very interested in receiving public input on these issues.

The survey asks you to rank priorities and to answer a number of multiple-choice questions, but also has space for you to provide additional comments and suggestions. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

## A. Priorities

1. Because the California Biomonitoring Program will be able to analyze only a limited number of chemicals, we need to set priorities among the different chemicals and groups of chemicals that could be included in the program.

According to the law that established the program, priority chemicals for biomonitoring are based on:

- the extent of exposure to the chemical (by the public or specific subgroups);
- the likelihood that the chemical is toxic
- the ability of laboratories to detect the chemical at low levels in people
- other criteria that the Scientific Guidance Panel recommends.

The following table lists some possible additional criteria or ways that priority chemicals might be selected. Please rank the top four items from the table below that you believe are most important for the Scientific Guidance Panel and the program to consider by checking 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the columns to the right of the priority list; 1 is the most important topic, 4 is less important. You can only choose your top four items.

The program should give priority to: (1=most important, 4=less important)

	1	2	3	4
1. Measuring chemicals that are widely used throughout California.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Measuring chemicals that will help government decide whether environmental laws are working.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Measuring new, emerging chemicals, or other chemicals, that are now becoming widely used.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Measuring chemicals that Californians come into contact with at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Measuring chemicals that are studied nationally so that we can compare California with the rest of the country.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Measuring chemicals that are not studied nationally so that we can find out about chemical exposures that the federal government is not investigating.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Measuring chemicals expected to be higher in Californians because of specific activities or regulations in the state - for example, gold mining, oil refining, farming, or strict flammability standards for furniture.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Measuring chemicals to which pregnant women, fetuses and young children are likely to be especially sensitive.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Measuring chemicals that persist in the environment and can accumulate in people's bodies over time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Measuring chemicals in communities where people may come into contact with more pollutants than the general population - for example, near factories, ports, oil refineries or farms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Don't know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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2. Should the program consider other issues in selecting priority chemicals?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

### B. Which chemicals should the Biomonitoring Program measure in Californians...

There are thousands of environmental chemicals. However, we will not be able to measure more than a limited number. Depending on the program's budget, we hope to add additional chemicals to our list every couple of years.

Please tell us whether you think the following chemicals or chemical groups are important for the program to measure by checking one of the following responses: Important - Somewhat Important - Not Important - Don't know.

You have the option of naming specific chemicals to measure after each question.

1. Metals, such as those sometimes found in food, toys and drinking water – For example: mercury, lead, chromium, arsenic.

Important

Somewhat important

Not important

Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific metals that you think the program should measure.

2. Pesticides or other chemicals used in farming to control weeds, insects, rodents or fungi that affect crops, including fruits, grains, vegetables or cotton.

Important

Somewhat important

Not important

Don't know

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If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific pesticides used in farming that you think the program should measure.

3. Pesticides used in or around homes or schools - for example, to control fleas, ticks, weeds or insects in the home or yard.

Important

Somewhat important

Not important

Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific pesticides used in homes or schools that you think the program should measure.

4. Chemicals found in plastics, such as those in packaging and consumer products, including water bottles and children's toys.

Important

Somewhat important

Not important

Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals found in plastics that you think the program should measure.

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5. Flame or fire retardants, such as those found in furniture and electronics.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific flame retardants that you think the program should measure.

6. Chemicals found in personal care products - for example, cosmetics, nail polish and shampoo.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals in personal care products that you think the program should measure.

7. Chemicals found in cleaning supplies - for example, window, floor, and bathroom cleaners.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

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If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals found in cleaning supplies that you think the program should measure.

8. Chemicals found in workplaces. There are many thousands of chemicals used in workplaces; a few examples include chemicals used to manufacture household appliances and electronics, solvents (such as metalworking fluids, paint thinner or nail polish remover), or gases that can be irritating to breathe.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals found in workplaces that you think the program should measure.

9. Chemicals that result from burning trash, plastic, tires and other discarded materials.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals resulting from burning trash that you think the program should measure.

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10. Chemicals that result from burning oil, gasoline, diesel or coal - for example, from power plants, ships at port, cars, buses or trucks.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals resulting from burning oil, gasoline, diesel or coal that you think the program should measure.

11. Chemicals from industrial plants or hazardous waste sites.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals emitted from industrial plants or hazardous waste sites that you think the program should measure.

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12. Chemicals that may contaminate drinking water - for example, prescription drugs, petroleum products, and chlorine disinfection byproducts.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals that may contaminate drinking water that you think the program should measure.

13. Chemicals found in food - for example, pesticide residues, fungal toxins, byproducts formed during cooking, or chemicals in packaging that migrate into food.

- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals found in food that you think the program should measure.

### Chemical Selection

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14. Are there other chemicals that you think the program should measure? If so, please list or describe them below.

15. The table below lists the chemical categories from the previous questions in the left-hand column. Please tell us your four most important categories of chemicals that the program should measure by checking one of the circles under number 1, 2, 3, or 4 to the right of your choice. You can check each number only once. (1 = most important, 4 = less important)

	1	2	3	4
Metals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farm pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home or school pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in plastic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire retardants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in personal care products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in cleaning supplies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in the workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals from burning trash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals from burning coal, oil or gasoline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals from industrial plants or hazardous waste sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemicals in food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other chemicals you listed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### C. Other comments and suggestions.

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1. Is there a specific community where people may come into contact with more pollutants than the general population that you would like us to know about? Please describe it.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe it:

2. Is there a specific group of workers exposed to chemicals that you would like us to know about? Please describe it.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe it:

3. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding the questions above, including any additional suggestions regarding chemicals the California Biomonitoring Program should measure.

### D. Please tell us about yourself (Optional)

We are interested in knowing who you are. The following information is optional.

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Email address:

Web address:

### Affiliation

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Please indicate your primary affiliation.

Nonprofit/Community-Based Organization

Government

Business

University/Academic

Tribal

Individual

Other (please specify)

Non-Profit Organization (NGO)/Community-Based Organization (CBO)- please indicate below type of NGO/CBO.

Community-based Environmental Organization

Community-based - Environmental Justice Organization

Health Outcome (e.g., cancer, autism, asthma)

Homeowner/Neighborhood Association

Worker Health and Safety

Other

Other organization (please specify)

Government - please indicate below type of government agency.

Local government

Regional government

State government

Federal government

Jurisdiction:

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Business - please indicate below type of business.

Small business

National business or industry

International business or industry

Other

What business do you represent?

Tribal - please specify:

## Public Participation

Have you attended any of the following public participation activities hosted by the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program? Please check all that apply.

Yes – a workshop in Los Angeles, Oakland or Fresno

Yes - a telephone conference call

No