Chemicals Detected in District’s Water Supply

- In response to the recent announcement by state and local public health officials that certain chemicals have been detected in the District’s water supply, please be assured that:

  The District’s Water Is Safe to Drink

- The District’s top priority is assuring a safe and secure water supply to its customers at a reasonable cost.

- In early July, the District detected elevated levels of certain per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFAS) in samples from certain shallow groundwater wells that feed into the District’s water supply prior to water treatment (referred to as “raw water”).

- Data collected by the District shows that the District’s treatment plant is already removing some of the PFAS detected in the raw water, and its final treated drinking water supply is below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory standard of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

- The District is taking additional steps to ensure the treated water delivered to its customers remains safe to drink. Accordingly, the District, for now, has stopped using raw water from the groundwater wells with the highest levels of PFAS compounds and replaced that lost water with unimpacted water from other sources.

- The District also has hired outside engineering expertise to assist the District in optimizing our treatment plant to ensure effective removal of PFAS going forward.

- PFAS have been identified by EPA and the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as “emerging contaminants.” They are not regulated, but they are the subject of Federal and State health advisories. PFAS have been used to make consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabric for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains (e.g., cookware). They are also used for firefighting and in a number of industrial processes.

- It is not known at this time how PFAS are getting into the District’s water supply. CDPHE, EPA, and the Tri-County Health Department (Tri-County Health) are working to identify the source of the PFAS and the responsible party or parties.

Information Contacts:

- For additional information on the District’s water supply, please visit the District’s website at www.sacwsd.org or call 303.287.6454 or email any questions to wqinfo@sacwsd.org.

- If you receive your drinking water from a private well, contact Tri-County Health for more information at 303-288-6816 or at ehwater@tchd.org
The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry provides resources related to PFAS for community members and health professionals on their website at: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html and https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf. EPA's factsheet for PFAS in drinking water is at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf. Additional information is also available on CDPHE’s website at https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/pfcs. For questions about your health, please call the department’s tox call line at (303) 692-2606 or email cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us.

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