March 21, 2023

**Information about the District’s Separate Irrigation System and PFAS**

Homes in parts of the District’s service area north of E.96th Ave. and east of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMA) have a separate irrigation water system that is specifically for irrigating lawns and plants. Areas west of the RMA and south of E. 96 Ave. are not served by this Separate Irrigation System.

This system was created to fully utilize all of the District’s available water resources, lower costs, and benefit the environment. For more information on the District’s Separate Irrigation System, please click here: [https://www.sacwisd.org/184/1300/Irrigation-system](https://www.sacwisd.org/184/1300/Irrigation-system)

The water that is delivered by the District to your home for drinking water and other tap water use is treated. The Separate Irrigation System water is not treated and is not fit for drinking and should not be consumed. This irrigation water has higher concentrations of naturally occurring minerals and bacteria. It also contains man-made substances found in the environment, including "PFAS" or “forever chemicals,” above levels set by the government for drinking water.
The District has been a leader in responding to potential PFAS in its water supplies, including treatment of drinking water. The District has expanded its PFAS testing to include the Separate Irrigation System water. That sampling confirms detections of PFAS at low levels (i.e., in the low parts per trillion). This means that PFAS may be present at low levels in Irrigation System water applied to lawns and plants in the parts of the District served by the Separate Irrigation System.

- PFAS refers to a group of human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a wide variety of products, such as some carpets, cosmetics, cookware, food packaging, and water-resistant clothing, as well as fire-fighting foams due to their durability and ability to resist heat, oil and water.

- Some PFAS are widely found in the environment and do not break down over time.

- Studies indicate that long-term exposure to some PFAS over certain levels may lead to adverse health effects.

- The primary health and regulatory focus has been on PFAS in drinking water. The District has been a leader in drinking water response actions, including treatment of our drinking water. For more information on the District’s response to PFAS, please click here https://www.sacwkd.org/249/PFAS-Information.

- Exposure to PFAS from physical contact with water with low levels of PFAS is of “minimal concern” according to health authorities (See https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/clinical-guidance-12-20-2019.pdf)

- Some PFAS in irrigation water may also be taken up by fruits and vegetables.

- There is currently no regulation from CDPHE or from the federal agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration related to PFAS in irrigation water.

- For more information, CDPHE has a "PFAS and Homegrown Produce" factsheet available on their website at https://cpde.colorado.gov/pfas-health under the "Reduce your exposure to PFAS" dropdown in the diet section.
The District will continue to:

- Evaluate the extent to which PFAS may impact the District’s irrigation supply; and
- Monitor PFAS-related regulatory developments for guidance on using the District’s irrigation water for watering lawns and plants.

The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District is a special district providing water and sanitary sewer service to over 67,000 residents in Commerce City and parts of unincorporated Adams County. For more information about the District’s water, please contact the District’s water quality information line at 303.287.6454, wqinfo@sacwsd.org, or Attn: Water Quality Info, 6595 E.70th Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. Additional PFAS information can be found at https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas.