The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District (SACWSD) is aware of recent media reports regarding a potential lawsuit between the City of Commerce City and Suncor concerning the presence of PFAS in Sand Creek.

This statement is a periodic public update on PFAS monitoring and the health and safety of SACWSD drinking water. Since we began voluntarily testing for the presence of PFAS, the drinking water provided to all residences and businesses by SACWSD has met or exceeded all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidance and health advisory limits.

We regularly monitor water for PFAS using state of the art testing equipment, and we report our findings in our annual Consumer Confidence Reports available on our website. The District first tested for PFAS on its own initiative in 2018. When we discovered PFAS in certain District water supply wells, we took immediate treatment action in consultation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE).

To best protect our consumers, the District’s ongoing response includes:

- Routine monitoring for PFAS at key points in our water treatment and delivery systems;
- Reconfiguring the raw water supply system to increase output from wells with lower concentrations of PFAS;
- Increased change-outs of our granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system, our current PFAS treatment technology;
- A rigorous evaluation to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of our current treatment technology and to compare it to alternatives;
- Expansion of our in-house laboratory capability for analyzing water samples for PFAS, allowing for a quick turnaround on sample results; and
- Collaboration with CDPHE, Tri-County Health Department and the EPA to monitor this issue and identify sources of PFAS contamination.

Based on all information the District has voluntarily collected, the District’s water distributed to its customers complies with the EPA’s lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS. Since the District’s last Consumer Confidence Report published in June 2020, PFAS concentrations have ranged from 7 ppt to 36 ppt, with an average of 16 ppt. The most current average reading is 11 ppt (all figures combined PFOA and PFOS).

The District continues to monitor the scientific and regulatory landscape regarding PFAS so as to stay informed, comply with CDPHE guidance, and be prepared for possible changes.
We are also in communication with CDPHE on efforts to identify third party sources of PFAS in the District’s groundwater. To further protect our consumers, the District will pursue all legal remedies against any owner or operator of a site that contributes to the presence of PFAS in SACWSD’s drinking water sources. SACWSD has notified several entities that could be potential sources of possible claims and we continue to evaluate the data.

For more information about the District’s history with PFAS, please see the link on the District website’s home page (www.sacwsd.org).

For questions regarding PFAS and health please contact the CDPHE or visit its website https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfcs.