

PFAS TALKING POINTS

- Public water agencies are committed to providing their customers with safe and reliable water that meets all stringent state and federal drinking water regulations.
- Public water agencies support reasonable state and federal regulations based on sound science and analysis. Unfortunately, the new federal MCL creates significant challenges that may not be workable or sustainable because of the anticipated costs and technical challenges of complying. These new regulations will likely lead to higher water rates for customers and could curtail access to critical water resources.
- Public water agencies regularly conduct tests to closely monitor drinking water quality by utilizing proven technologies and best practices to ensure that any emerging PFAS issues are managed in a transparent and responsible manner.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been used extensively in numerous consumer products, such as Teflon pans, stain resistant carpets, fast food packaging, fire-fighting foams and other materials designed to be water proof, stain-resistant or non-stick.
- Chemical manufacturers are the original source of PFAS chemicals.
- Certain PFAS chemicals (including PFOA and PFOS) are no longer manufactured in the United States. However, these chemicals are still produced internationally and are imported into the US in consumer goods such as carpets, apparel, textiles, paper, packaging, coatings, rubber and plastics.
- Water suppliers aren't the source of these chemicals. However, they are working hard to protect communities from them. Water providers monitor for their presence and, if necessary, determine the best response for their community, including water treatment and/or finding alternative sources of water.
- Research is underway to determine the most efficient and cost-effective treatment technologies to remove the chemicals from drinking water supplies. Unfortunately, some agencies may need more time than the new federal standard allows to install or upgrade necessary infrastructure.
- Public water agencies are committed to transparency in communicating information on PFAS and overall water quality to their customers. Agencies publish annual water quality reports with detailed information about local drinking water. These reports are often available on agency websites.
- Water agencies are trying to protect rate-paying customers and some have filed lawsuits to ensure the costs are borne by the companies that developed and manufactured PFAS.
- The costs associated with testing and treating drinking water to meet new federal standards could have a particularly negative impact on smaller districts and those serving disadvantaged communities.
- The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) believes that further research and evaluation of the impact to human health and the environment of the PFAS class of chemicals is needed; using a one-size-fits-all approach to regulate this broad category of chemicals is neither prudent nor warranted.