

PFAS in LA County Water Systems Update

The quality of drinking water is a rising concern nationally and locally. Every resident of Los Angeles County (County) has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), “forever chemicals,” are a class consisting of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been around since the 1940’s but are now raising increased concerns due to environmental prevalence and persistence, toxicity, and human exposures through water and food.

Legacy long-chain perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), which are historically two of the most widely used and studied chemicals in the PFAS group. Due to their persistence, toxicity and bioaccumulation potential, actions have been taken voluntarily by industries and regulators worldwide to reduce the release of PFAAs including PFOA, PFOS and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). PFAS are also widely documented in human plasma and can be maternally transferred pre- and post-natal. Some PFAS have also been linked with human developmental, metabolic, and immune disorders as well as certain types of cancers.

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
HORVATH	_____

The State has taken aggressive steps to regulate PFAS in the public water system by passing Assembly Bill 756 (Cristina Garcia), which requires the State Water Resources Control Board to monitor PFAS substances consistent with the California Safe Drinking Water Act. AB 756 takes regulation a step further by requiring the reporting of a prescribed public notification upon detection of these substances in a water system. Additionally, Assembly Bill 1200 (Ting) was later passed to prohibit the sale of food packaging that contains PFAS. Furthermore, the bill requires cookware manufacturers to label their product if it contains an intentionally added chemical and prevents misleading claims of cookware being free of a PFAS. Both bills represent important steps taken to ensure the dependable, safe supply of drinking water as well as consumer products to protect public health. On July 25, 2023, I brought forth a motion on PFAS which directed DPH and other departments to:

- Index and catalogue which water systems are/not testing for PFAS,
- Explore options to assist water systems to increase PFAS testing,
- Determine federal and state standards for maximum contaminant levels, and;
- Identify and advocate for funding to support implementation of treatment for PFAS and system retrofits.

As follow-up, on October 16, 2023, the Department of Public Health responded with a report which listed the several recommendations, some of which are included in this motion, and on September 26, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors sent a 5-signature letter to the Administrator of the United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) respectfully urging them to adopt PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) by the end of the calendar year 2023 and not thereafter. On April 10,

2024, the US EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS which contains the MCLs for PFAS.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Department of Public Health, to move forward with the implementation of the referenced recommendations, as directed below, within 120 days:

- 1) Disseminate educational materials on PFAS health effects and sources of PFAS exposure including for example furniture, carpet, clothing, cookware, plastics, imported goods, and other common household products.
- 2) Promote the EPA's Public PFAS Analytic Tools (<https://echo.epa.gov/trends/pfas-tools>), an application that integrates data on PFAS reporting, testing, and occurrences in communities.
- 3) Collaborate with the Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations unit to advocate with the State to provide health advisories to water systems about PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels, negative human health risks associated with PFAS, encourage water systems to initiate voluntary testing and information, and refer water systems to funding sources to assist with PFAS monitoring.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health to explore and report back in writing, in 120 days, on ways State regulations can reduce local exposures.

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JH:jt