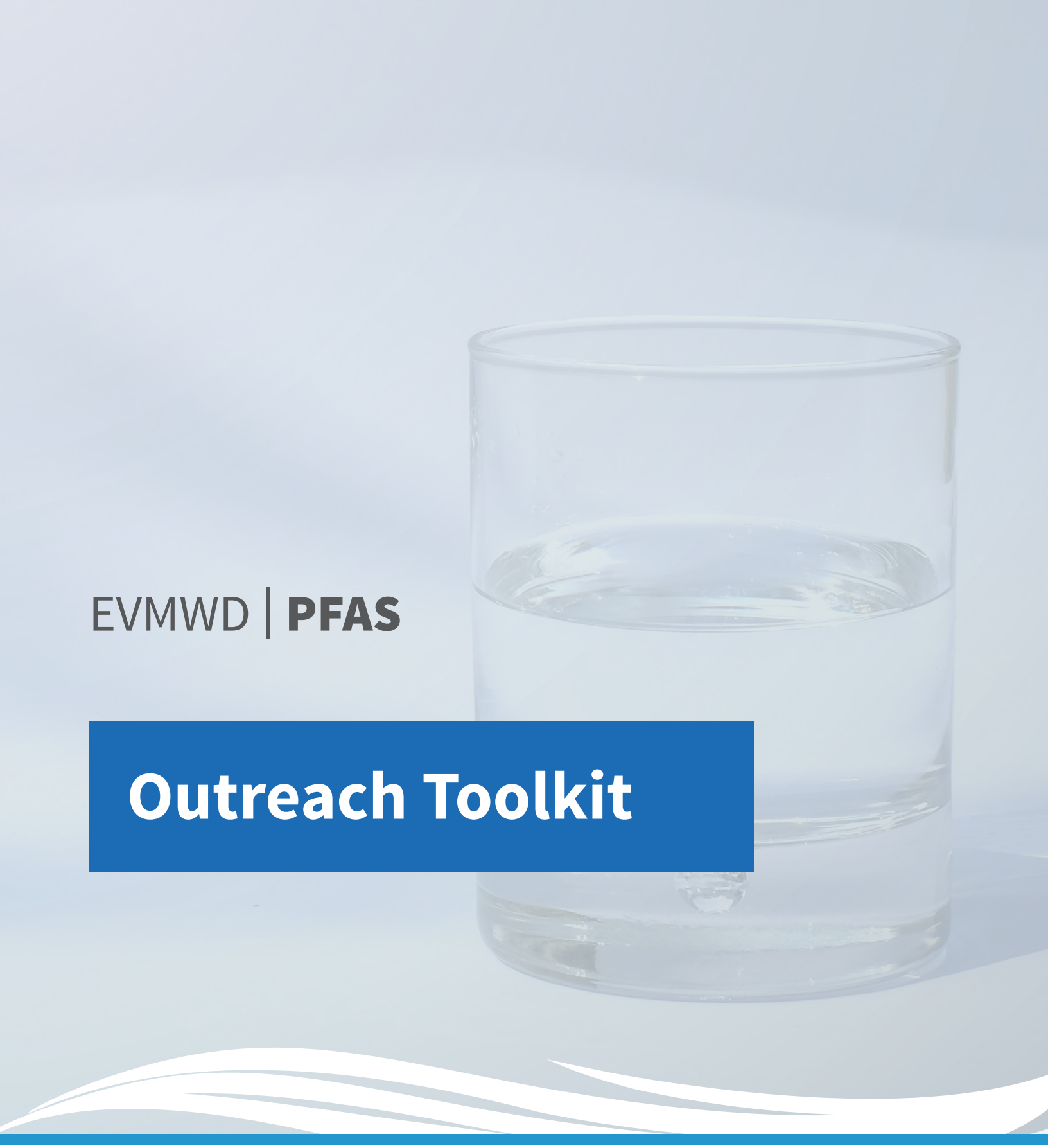


EVMWD | **PFAS**

Outreach Toolkit

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Get Involved

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District is committed to providing its customers and stakeholders with exceptional communications, which also includes communicating transparently and regularly on issues affecting water supply and water quality – such as polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals.

EVMWD is committed to solutions and is actively exploring short- and long-term solutions to minimize and possibly remove the levels of PFAS chemicals in our water. As a valued stakeholder and partner in the community, we want to make sure you have access to important water supply news and are able to share those with your own stakeholders.

Here's how you can stay up to date and help share news with the community!

- ☑ Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/elsinore.eddie.fanpage
- ☑ Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/ElsinoreEddie
- ☑ Subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/ElsinoreEddie
- ☑ Share our fact sheets or videos
- ☑ Share an article in your newsletter
- ☑ Distribute an e-blast about PFAS regulations, solutions and water quality news
- ☑ Let us give a presentation to your organization

Sample Newsletter Article

The Cost of PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries worldwide for more than 70 years. While these chemicals are no longer manufactured in the United States, they are still manufactured abroad and are found in many everyday consumer products. We can find them in items such as makeup, dental floss, food containers, nonstick cookware, carpets and stain resistant fabrics.

Over time, these chemicals have entered our water supplies through runoff, wastewater effluent, landfills and manufacturing. In Elsinore Valley and other communities across California, low levels of two of the most widely understood PFAS chemicals – PFOA and PFOS – have been recently detected in groundwater supplies.

The science surrounding PFAS and its effects on public health is still evolving and experts throughout the country continue to grapple with what levels are acceptable in drinking water. While we have yet to find consensus among state and federal regulators on this issue, California is advising water agencies to stop serving water with more than 40 parts per trillion of PFOS or 10 parts per trillion of PFOA.

To meet the state's advised levels, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District will need to rely on additional imported water that can replace or be blended with impacted groundwater to reduce PFAS levels. Long- term solutions might even require a new treatment to remove PFAS from our groundwater supplies. Unfortunately, either solution will result in significant costs.

EVMWD is committed to delivering clean, reliable and affordable water to our customers. Yet, the solutions needed to meet state regulations will continue to drive water rates up throughout California and disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities. While estimations show that treatment will mean a *minimum* $4 increase in customers' monthly water bill – the equivalent of a carton of eggs – there are programs, such as Low-Income Rate Assistance, available to help reduce costs for customers.

EVMWD is closely monitoring PFAS in our water supply. Our water is thoroughly treated and tested thousands of times per year to ensure it meets water quality standards for state and federal regulations. If PFAS are discovered at a reportable level, EVMWD will take immediate and appropriate action to ensure water meets state and federal regulations. We will also make sure to notify our customers along with the appropriate state and federal officials. Treating water with PFAS is not a simple fix due to the substance's water-repelling characteristics. EVMWD is currently exploring treatment options to determine which method performs best. In the meantime, additional imported water will supplement local groundwater supplies.

For more information, please visit:

EVMWD: evmwd.com/pfas
EPA: epa.gov/pfas
DDW: waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS
FDA: fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

Sample E-Blast

The Cost of PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries worldwide for more than 70 years. While they are no longer manufactured in the United States, we can still find them in many everyday consumer products and in our environments.

In Elsinore Valley and other communities across California, low levels of PFAS have been recently detected in groundwater supplies.

The science surrounding PFAS and its effects on public health is still evolving and experts throughout the country continue to grapple with what levels are acceptable in drinking water. While we have yet to find consensus among state and federal regulators on this issue, California is advising water agencies to stop serving water with more than 40 parts per trillion of PFOS or 10 parts per trillion of PFOA.

FAST FACTS

- PFAS can be found in a variety of everyday items, such as makeup, dental floss, food containers, nonstick cookware, carpets and stain resistant fabrics.

- PFAS has entered our water supplied through runoff, wastewater effluent, landfills and manufacturing.

- PFAS at certain levels cause health impacts, but the exact levels and the effects are unclear.

- Solutions to meet state regulations will be costly. Estimations show this will mean a $4 increase in customers' monthly water bills.

To meet the state's advised levels, EVMWD must rely on additional imported water that can replace impacted groundwater or be blended with impacted groundwater to reduce PFAS levels. Long-term solutions may require a new treatment to remove PFAS from our groundwater supplies. The solutions needed to meet state water regulations would increase water rates throughout California, but EVMWD is committed to providing affordable water solutions to its customers alongside safe drinking water.

EVMWD is closely monitoring PFAS in our water supply and is currently exploring treatment options to determine which method performs best. In the meantime, additional imported water will supplement local groundwater supplies.

For more information, please visit evmwd.com/pfas.

PFAS Facts

FEBRUARY 2020

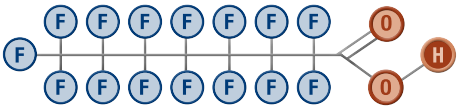
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals, including PFOA, PFOS and GenX, which is a chemical replacement for PFOA. For more than 70 years, PFAS have been manufactured and used in variety of industries worldwide.

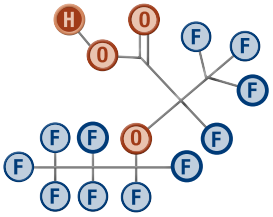
According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse health effects in humans.

PFOA and PFOS Chemicals



U.S. manufacturers voluntarily phased out PFOA and PFOS, two specific PFAS chemicals.

GenX Chemicals

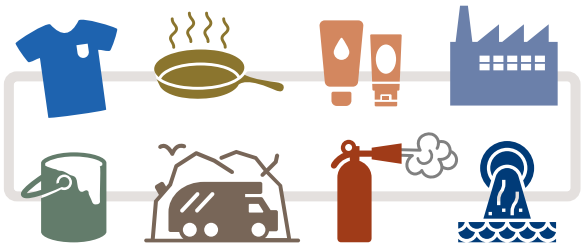


GenX chemicals are a replacement for PFOA.

Where Are PFAS Found?

PFAS are man-made contaminants that are found in thousands of products that are used daily, including our shampoo, clothing, cleaning products, food wrappers, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam and carpet.

PFAS are in **1,000s** of Commonly Used **Products** and the **Environment**



Most people worldwide have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood and are typically exposed to PFAS through eating food grown in contaminated water/soil or consuming food from packaging that contains PFAS; breathing air with dust particles from contaminated soil, upholstery, clothing; inhaling fabric sprays containing PFAS; or drinking contaminated water.

How Did PFAS Get Into Our Water?

Like many communities throughout the nation, small amounts of PFAS are found in our water supply. Water districts, like EVMWD, don't put these chemicals into water, but over time they have entered our waterways through manufacturing, landfills and wastewater effluent.

What is EVMWD Doing to Treat and Remove PFAS?

Our customers are our top priority, and EVMWD is closely monitoring PFAS in our water supply. Our water is thoroughly treated and tested thousands of times per year to ensure it meets water quality standards for state and federal regulations. If PFAS are discovered at a reportable level, EVMWD will take immediate and appropriate action to ensure water meets state and federal regulations. We also make sure to notify our customers along with the appropriate state and federal officials.

Treating water with PFAS is not a simple fix due to the substance's water-repelling characteristics. EVMWD is currently exploring treatment options to determine which method performs best. The estimated cost of addressing PFAS is expected to be significant to include treatment to remove PFAS or use of imported water that can replace or blend with impacted local water supplies.

PFAS Facts

FEBRUARY 2020

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

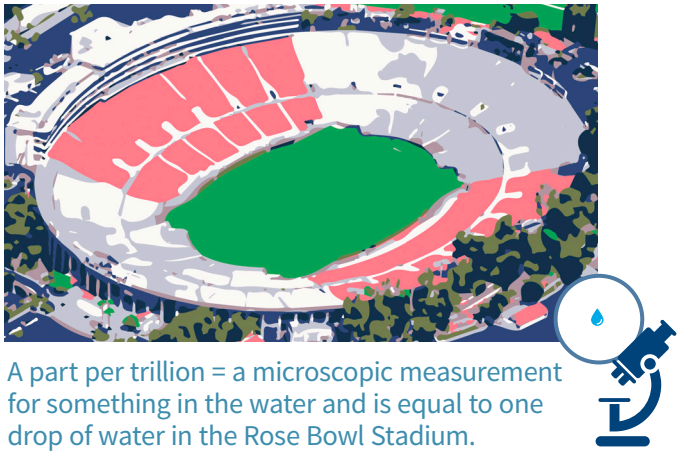
How Do We Monitor Our Water for PFAS?

In California, the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has a "Notification Level" and a "Response Level" for water agencies. EVMWD follows these guidelines for notifying our customers and other stakeholders.

Notification Level (NL): Requires a water agency to notify government officials when PFAS in the water exceeds the set NL. In California, the NL for PFOA is 5.1 ppt; the NL for PFOS is 6.5 ppt.

Response Level (RL): Requires agencies to take action for readings above 10 parts per trillion of PFOA or 40 parts per trillion of PFOS. As of February 2020, the DDW recommends that the water agency remove the well from service or provide treatment if it exceeds that amount.

What Does a Part Per Trillion Look Like?



A part per trillion = a microscopic measurement for something in the water and is equal to one drop of water in the Rose Bowl Stadium.

PFAS in California

200+ Water Systems

612+ Well Monitoring Orders

74 community water systems with detected levels

PFAS in EVMWD Water Service Area

EVMWD sampled 17 sources for PFAS chemicals.

1 well exceeds the Notification Levels and is currently being monitored.

1 source exceeds the new 2020 Response Levels and was removed from service in November 2019.

More Information

EVMWD: evmwd.com/pfas
EPA: epa.gov/pfas
DDW: waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS
FDA: fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

Impacts of PFAS on Our Community

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

PFAS & Our Water

Over time PFAS have entered our water supplies through runoff, wastewater effluent, landfills and manufacturing.

- In Elsinore Valley and other communities across California, low levels of two of the most widely understood PFAS – PFOA and PFOS – have been recently detected in local water supplies.
- PFAS do pose a threat to public health, however at what amount? The science is evolving and experts throughout the country continue to grapple with what levels are acceptable in drinking water.
- While we have yet to find consensus among state and federal regulators on this issue, California recently issued new guidelines that advise water agencies to stop serving water with more than 10 parts per trillion of PFOA or 40 parts per trillion of PFOS.

California's new advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS are among the lowest in the nation.

WHAT WE KNOW

- ☑ Significant financial impacts to disadvantaged communities
- ☑ Treatment will impact families throughout California and create additional costs for our customers
- ☑ Removal from water supplies requires more advanced treatment than conventional processes
- ☑ PFAS have entered local water supplies
- ☑ PFAS at certain levels cause health impacts
- ☑ People are exposed to PFAS every day through common consumer products
- ☑ Removal of PFAS uses more energy creating greenhouse gas emissions

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

- ☒ What levels of PFAS in drinking water pose a threat
- ☒ What standard is appropriate - EPA offers different guidance than California
- ☒ Extent of treatment costs and impact on affordability for our customers
- ☒ Process for disposing of waste product after treatment
- ☒ Potential of future regulations on wastewater and recycled water

With substantial unknowns, there is growing concern over the state taking a drastic first step without sound science or affordability studies to justify the action.

Providing Clean AND Affordable Water

Our priority is delivering clean, reliable and affordable water to our customers. Low-Income Rate Assistance and other programs are designed to help reduce costs for customers, and EVMWD is committed to keeping water safe and affordable. New, costly regulations that require new advanced treatment facilities and heavier reliance on imported water supplies will also continue to drive water rates up throughout California and directly impact Disadvantaged Communities. At EVMWD, we support actions that utilize the best available science and we encourage regulators and lawmakers to ensure that water providers are able to serve both clean and affordable water.

The High Cost of Compliance

Many water agencies, including Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, will be faced with new, significant costs related to PFAS because of California's new levels.

Long-term, local water supplies will require new and advanced treatment to remove PFAS.

Short-term, the costs are still substantial. To meet the state's new advisory levels, EVMWD must rely on costlier imported water to replace or blend with impacted local water supplies. To replace the currently impacted supplies, the cost to EVMWD customers especially disadvantaged communities, is significant:

Immediate Ratepayer Costs

- ***$5 million fee*** *to pay for increased capacity of imported water*
- ***$640,000 per year*** *for additional imported water*

Long Term Cost of Treatment for Ratepayers

- ***$14 million*** *in capital costs*
- ***$250,000 EACH YEAR*** *in new O&M costs*

What does this mean for customers?

Minimum $4 Increase in Monthly Water Bill

Drinking Water Regulations at Odds with Local Supply Goals

New, more stringent PFAS recommendations in California have the unintended consequence of driving up reliance on imported water supplies.

- Water agencies throughout the state, including EVMWD, have taken many steps and invested millions of dollars to substantially reduce their reliance on the Delta by investing in local ground and surface water supplies over the past several years.
- Until treatment facilities are permitted, constructed and operational, water agencies must buy more imported water.
- In many cases, treatment facilities may not be financially feasible, creating long-term increased dependence on the fragile Delta.

VALLEY NEWS
A Reedemedia publication

https://myvalleynews.com/local-water-supplies-impacted-by-new-state-guidance-on-pfas/

Local water supplies impacted by new state guidance on PFAS

Submitted by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

February 17, 2020

LAKE ELSINORE – The California State Water Resource Control Board issued new drinking water guidelines recently, lowering the trigger levels for responses by local water systems to 10 ppt for perfluorooctanoic acid and 40 ppt for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid. The new guidelines, known as response levels, are among the lowest in the nation. One part-per-trillion is the equivalent of one drop of water in the Rose Bowl Stadium.

Though sampling indicated levels of PFOS and PFOA in a couple of local sources of water, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District is currently not producing drinking water from impacted sources. EVMWD is evaluating options to meet these new regulations including importing water to offset local supplies and in the long term, considering construction of treatment systems if water sources exceed state mandated response levels.

“Our No. 1 priority is providing clean, reliable drinking water to our customers,” Andy Morris, president of the EVMWD board of directors, said. “We are exploring all options for treating or replacing the water supplies impacted by these chemicals, as well as the evaluating the long-term impacts.”

Around the world, people have been exposed to PFOA and PFOS through many consumer products, such as makeup, dental floss, food containers, nonstick cookware, carpets and other items used every day. Part of a larger family of chemicals – PFAS – PFOA and PFOS have historically been used heavily in manufacturing. Water districts don’t put these chemicals into water, but over time they have entered water supplies through runoff, firefighting foam, landfills and manufacturing.

Exposure to these chemicals at certain levels can cause health impacts, but the exact level is still unknown. The science is evolving, and experts throughout the country continue to grapple with what levels are acceptable in drinking water.

Now, with new response levels in place, water districts are faced with the high cost of treating or replacing local water supplies.

“It’s paramount that water remain affordable, and so we urge state and federal regulators to rely on the best available science when making decisions that have a significant impact on our ability to supply clean and affordable water,” Morris said.

California issued monitoring orders 2019 for PFOA and PFOS to more than 200 public water agencies, including EVWMD. These chemicals were found in local water supplies without

surpassing the prior response level. Under the new response levels, one source was found to exceed response levels and water from this source will not be served. To replace the currently impacted source, the cost to EVMWD and its customers could be significant.

New response levels in California also have the unintended consequence of driving up reliance on imported water supplies to meet demands. To meet the state's advised levels, EVMWD and many other water agencies must rely on costlier imported water that can replace or blend with impacted local water supplies.

The district said water quality is critical to their mission as a water district. As part of the district's commitment to clean water, EVMWD analyzes water via a stringent process that involves more than 17,000 tests per year for more than 250 different compounds, such as arsenic and radioactive elements.

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VALLEY NEWS
A Reedemedia publication

https://myvalleynews.com/water-districts-seek-to-find-a-way-to-get-rid-of-chemicals-found-in-many-man-made-items/

Water districts seek to find a way to get rid of chemicals found in many man-made items

By **Lexington Howe**
March 6, 2020

An emerging constituent, PFAS, or Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, is a chemical emerging in drinking water across the nation.

Murrieta is served by several water districts and these include Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District and Rancho California Water District.

PFAS are a family of over 6,000 chemicals according to the report presented at the Feb. 18 Murrieta City Council meeting. These chemicals are used in manufacturing for their heat and water-resistant properties, and they're also found in thousands of items we use every day: water-proof clothing, cleaning products, nonstick cookware, fire-fighting foam, paint, microwave popcorn bags and dental floss.

Water districts don't put these chemicals into the water, but over time they have entered the waterways through manufacturing and landfills.

While PFAS manufacturing in the United States has come to an end, they are still manufactured abroad, though state and federal regulations are working to manage PFAS levels currently in the water.

Guidelines are evolving, and there have been changes seen in 2020 in regards to these regulations.

Water supplies across the state are being tested. Seventy-four community water systems in California had detected levels, while one source exceeded the response levels in 2020 and was removed from service in November 2019.

The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District among the several other districts presented during the meeting are currently exploring their options for treatment in a cost-effective way.
A water specialist from the EVMWD said that the health effects of PFAS chemicals are currently being studied by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and while it seems like the health effects could range from low infant birth rates, cancer, among a few others, there have not been official long-term studies conducted to prove this.

The chemical itself is not new, according to the Western Municipal Water District, as it's been around since the 1940s, though testing has now currently caught up to it. Western said in the evening report that everyone possesses some type of PFAS in their bodies.

For more information on the city council meeting, Feb. 18, or its agenda items, visit https://vimeo.com/cityofmurrieta.

Lexington Howe can be reached by email at valleystaff@reedermedia.com.

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