271 S. Brea Canyon Rd. Walnut, CA 91789
walnutvalleywater.gov
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WALNUT VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT

Water Quality You Can Trust

Safe and Reliable Drinking Water for Your Home, School, & Business

Walnut Valley Water District is dedicated to meeting the water supply needs of the cities of Diamond Bar, Industry, Rowland Heights, Walnut, West Covina, and Pomona. The District continues to ensure that our customers have a safe and reliable drinking water supply amid growing concerns over the presence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances known as PFAS.

The District's water is supplied by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) through its member agency Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Metropolitan is the nation's largest wholesale water agency, delivering a reliable supply of imported water to nearly 19 million people and thousands of businesses in its six-county service area. Metropolitan is working with its member agencies to understand the effect of PFAS throughout Southern California.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

Walnut Valley Water District does not import water from groundwater sources or other sources that contain PFAS. The drinking water provided to homes, businesses, and schools is safe and exceeds all quality standards set by both the state and federal government. WVWD water quality experts continuously monitor the water supply and conduct thousands of laboratory tests each year. The tests results are published by WVWD in the annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report which can be found on the District website at: walnutvalleywater.gov.

What are PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a family of more than 4,500 chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS, which are widely used in products that resist heat, oils, stains, and water.

They are man-made chemicals that have been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, fire-fighting foams, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick.

Between 2000 and 2006, the national use of two of the most common PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) were voluntarily phased out and are no longer manufactured in the United States. However, other countries still make products that contain these chemicals, which may be imported.

The chemicals are extremely stable in the environment and in the human body, meaning that they don't break down and can accumulate over time, giving them the name: "Forever Chemicals."

Where have PFAS been found?

PFAS have been detected in some groundwater wells throughout Southern California. These chemicals have entered those water cycles through:

- Landfills
- Treated wastewater discharge
- Sites where the chemicals were used in manufacturing
- Facilities where the chemicals were used in firefighting training, like airports and military bases

These chemicals can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes, rivers, and private wells.

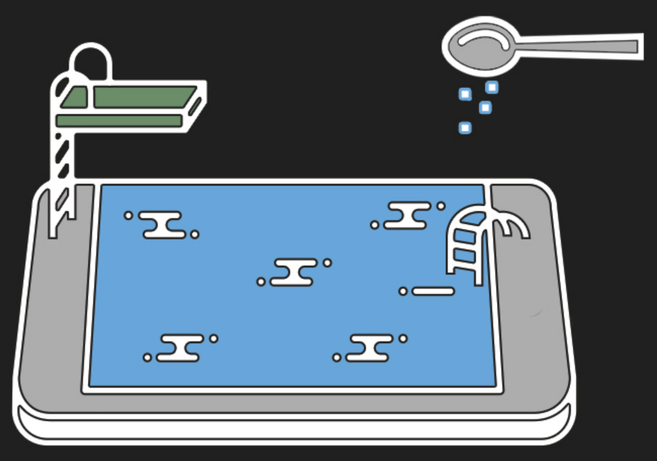
Due to PFAS inability to break down and their resiliency, the chemicals can accumulate, leading to elevated levels in the groundwater near those sites.

PFAS Regulation

State and federal lawmakers and regulators are moving toward stricter standards and guidelines for the detection, public notification, and removal of PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) in drinking water.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	**Current:** The EPA requires a drinking water health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for a combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS. If exceeded, the EPA recommends agencies assess the contamination, inform customers and limit exposure.	**Future:** The EPA is establishing drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS, including an enforcement mechanism by setting a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).
California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	**Current:** The SWRCB has set a notification level for PFOA at 5.1 ppt and for PFOS at 6.5 ppt. If exceeded, agencies are required to notify their governing bodies and the SWRCB recommends they inform customers. They have also set a response level of 70 ppt for a combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS. If exceeded, the SWRCB recommends removal of the drinking water source from service.	**Future:** The SWRCB lowered the response level for PFOA and PFOS and also increased the required monitoring and customer notifications for the chemicals in compliance with a new state law taking effect in January 2020.

A **nanogram** (parts-per-trillion) per liter is equivalent of **four grains** of sugar dissolved in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.



Definition of Terms

Notification Level – Precautionary health-based advisory levels establish by the California Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that are not regulated by MCLs. This offers a margin of protection for all persons throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. State law requires timely notification to local governing bodies and customers by a water system whenever a notification level is exceeded in drinking water.

Response Level – The recommendation placed by the DDW for public water systems to remove a source of water from service if a contaminant is present at concentrations considerably higher than the notification levels.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) – Standards set by the EPA for drinking water quality. MCLs serve as legal threshold limits on the amount of a substance that is allowed in a potable water supply. The EPA is moving forward with developing MCLs for PFOA and PFOS. The State of California is expected to initiate a parallel process to establish its own enforceable limits. Until either federal or state MCLs are set for PFOA and PFOS, there are no legal requirements for a public water system to blend, treat or take an affected water source out of service.

Dedicated to meeting the water supply needs of the communities we serve.

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