



PRESS RELEASE

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November 6, 2019

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Pleasanton City Council Takes Action for Safe Groundwater

PLEASANTON, Calif. -- Pleasanton City Council unanimously supported actions to maintain safe groundwater quality in advance of new State drinking water requirements to take effect January 2020.

The City Council has given direction for both short- and long-term solutions. Short-term solutions include continued quarterly testing, monitoring changes to Response Levels, and coordinating testing and operational strategies with Zone 7 Water Agency. Long-term solutions include conducting a feasibility study on water treatment alternatives to begin in February 2020, performing water infrastructure capacity evaluation, and incorporating financial impacts of water treatment into a planned Water Study Report.

Earlier this year Assembly Bill 756 was signed into law requiring public water systems throughout the state including Zone 7 and the City of Pleasanton that are in close proximity to landfills, municipal airports, to report any detections of the **unregulated** contaminants PFOA and PFOS annually in Consumer Confidence Reports and to notify water customers starting January 2020.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are unregulated synthetic chemicals part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) that were extensively manufactured in the United States since the 1940s as manmade substances synthesized for water and lipid resistance commonly used in many consumer products like carpet, clothing, and non-stick cookware. While U.S. manufacturers voluntarily phased out the use of PFAS by 2006, California and many states

have found that PFAS have made their way into groundwater supplies, particularly near airports, landfills, and former and active military bases where these chemicals were commonly used.

Pleasanton provides 25% of the water sourced by three wells throughout the city, and the other 75% of the City's water is provided by Zone 7. As part of the order by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) earlier this year, the City and Zone 7 began testing groundwater wells and have detected both PFOA and PFOS. Zone 7's initial test results found some groundwater wells to be above the Notification Levels for PFOA and PFOS, and one well tested above the Response Level which has been made a last priority well to operate. Pleasanton has three active groundwater wells-Well 5, Well 6, and Well 8-that all tested above the Notification Level. Well 8 tested above the Response Level and has not been in operation since initial testing.

Although PFOA and PFOS are not currently regulated, DDW has established interim drinking water Notification Levels which require agencies to notify the officials in areas where water has been provided, and Response Levels which require the water agency to remove the water source from service or provide treatment. As of August 2019, Notifications Levels are 5.1 parts per trillion for PFOA and 6.5 parts per trillion for PFOS. The Response Level for PFOA and PFOS combined is 70 parts per trillion. A part per trillion (ppt) is equivalent to a single drop of water in 20 Olympic size swimming pools. [Pleasanton Test Results](#)

The City of Pleasanton has taken early steps to meet the new January 2020 state regulation and has already begun public notification to all water customers through a direct-mail information brochure noting initial testing results, an article in the recent *Progress Newsletter* mailed to all Pleasanton addresses, and a webpage dedicated to providing updated information on PFAS.

"The City is committed providing safe, clean and reliable water to our customers. Our short- and long-term workplan ensures that we are using objective information to inform the public regarding emerging water safety standards and pursuing meaningful engineering solutions and technology to ensure the State's public health goals are met in the future," said City Manager Nelson Fialho.

For more information on PFOA/PFAS: pfas.cityofpleasantonca.gov

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