The La Puente Valley County Water District is Committed to Water Quality

PFAS FAQs

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. While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water has become an increasing concern due to the persistence and tendency of these chemicals to accumulate in groundwater.

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. PFAS are called "forever chemicals" because they are made to repel water and are challenging to remove.

How Does PFAS Get Into Our Water?

Water districts do not put these chemicals into the water, but over time trace amounts may enter waterways through manufacturing, landfills and wastewater discharge.

How is PFAS in Water Treated?

If detected, there are several ways PFAS can be treated and removed from water:

- **Treatments:** Granular activated carbon, ion exchange resin or reverse osmosis/nanofiltration
- **Removal:** Remove affected supply from service
- **Blending:** Blend affected water with other unaffected supplies

PFAS TIMELINE

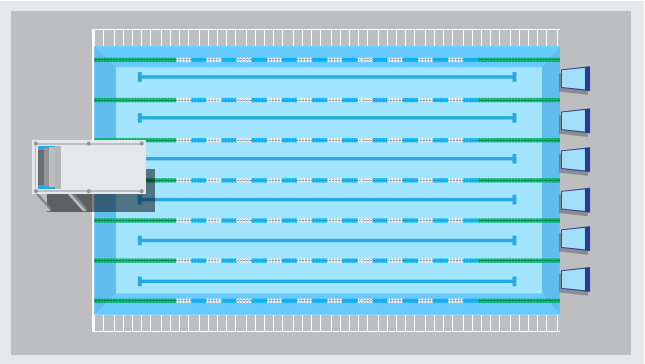
1940s	PFAS were developed.
1950s–60s	Products with PFAS gain popularity; more than 4,500 different kinds of PFAS.
2000s	US EPA voluntarily phases out PFAS and PFOA; however, these chemicals are still used in products manufactured in other countries.
2016	EPA publishes new Lifetime Health Advisory recommending PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, either individually or combined, should not be greater than 70 ppt.
2017	EPA conducted PFAS sampling of several water sources in the San Gabriel Valley area, including the La Puente Valley County Water District's (LPVCWD) sources; No PFAS chemicals detected in LPVCWD's sources.
2018	Following EPA advisory, CA DDW establishes interim levels and phased approach to investigating.
2019	CA DDW issues testing orders to 200 water systems and 612 well monitoring orders for areas, such as airports with fire training and response areas, and municipal solid waste landfills, that were identified as the most susceptible to this type of contamination. LPCVWD's water supply sources were not identified as susceptible to PFAS contamination; no testing is required.
2019	CA DDW lowered notification levels by more than half to 6.5 ppt for PFOS and 5.1 ppt for PFOA. As part of this change, LPVCWD voluntarily and proactively sampled water from its wells. This sampling found PFOS in one of its wells at 3.2 ppt – which is below the state's notification levels – and found no detection of PFOA. The District also sampled our treated water that enters our drinking water system and found no detectable PFOA or PFOS.
2020	CA DDW lowered response levels to 50 (10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS). None of LPVCWD's wells are above the response level.

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. LPVCWD follows these guidelines for notifying our customers and other stakeholders. PFAS regulations in CA are the most rigorous in the US; each state is in charge of setting its own levels.

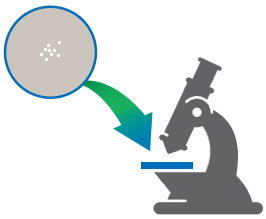
Notification Level (NL): Requires a water agency to notify government officials when PFAS in the water exceeds the set NL. In California, the NL for PFOA is 5.1 ppt; the NL for PFOS is 6.5 ppt.

Response Level (RL): Requires agencies to take action for readings of a combined 50 ppt (10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS). The DDW recommends that the water agency remove the well from service or provide treatment if it exceeds that amount.



A PART PER TRILLION

= a microscopic measurement for something in the water and is equal to a few grains of sugar in an Olympic-size swimming pool

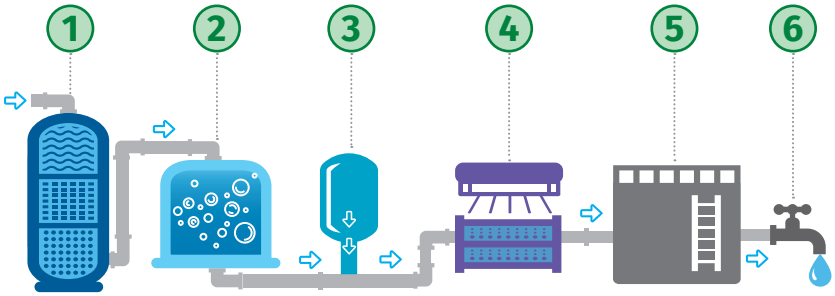


How are LPVCWD Customers Notified When PFAS is Found in the Water?

If PFAS was found in our water and registers above the state's notification levels when we sample it, we transparently communicate this information with our customers through LPVCWD's annual Consumer Confidence (Water Quality) Report as well as our Agency's website and newsletter and/or bill stuffers.

In addition, this information is provided to the state's Division of Drinking Water, LPVCWD's governing board, the La Puente City Council, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors within 30 days of official results from the certified testing laboratory.

HOW WE TREAT YOUR WATER



1. Air Stripping Towers remove VOCs to below detection levels.
2. A single pass ion exchange system uses resin specifically manufactured to remove perchlorate.
3. A hydrogen peroxide injection system injects hydrogen peroxide in preparation for the UV reactors.
4. UV reactors treat for NDMA and 1, 4-Dioxane.
5. Water exiting the facility is chlorinated to provide a disinfectant residual in the water system.
6. Treated water then enters the water system and is delivered to your home.

MORE INFORMATION

LPVCWD's General Manager Greg Galindo at (626) 330-2126.

LaPuenteWater.com
epa.gov/pfas
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS
fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

La Puente Valley County Water District