



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

*Este informe contiene
información muy importante
sobre su agua potable.*

*Tradúzcalo o hable con
alguien que lo entienda bien.*



City of Downey Public Water System Testing Information

What are **PFAS**?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made substances that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. Two of the more common PFAS are perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

PFAS has been used in the United States since the 1940s to produce stain-resistant, water resistant, and non-stick products. It has been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, cookware, and other materials. PFAS was also used in fire-retardant foam and in various industrial processes.

PFOS and PFOA are no longer manufactured or imported into the US, although some imported goods may still contain trace amounts of these substances. Other PFAS goods and materials are still produced and used in the US. As the result PFAS can be found in the air, water, and soil as well as products we regularly use.

Are there concerns about **PFAS**?

PFAS are persistent in the environment and can accumulate in animals and humans over time. Studies show that continued exposure to low levels may result in adverse health effects to various organs, glands, immune system, and developing fetuses.



Has **PFAS** been detected in our water?

Yes, under the latest General Monitoring Order (Order) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, the City has detected PFAS in our groundwater supply. PFOA are at levels ranging from 6 to 18 parts per trillion (ppt). PFOS are at levels ranging from 21 to 58 ppt.

For context, a ppt is a microscopic measurement for particles in the water. It is equal to a few grains of sugar in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Currently, there are no federal and state standards for PFAS; however, the State Water Board has established interim "response levels" of 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS for water agencies.

The City follows these state guidelines when notifying of our customers. Under the Order, exceedance of the interim response levels is based on a quarterly running annual average (QRAA).

This notice is being provided to the City's water customers because its QRAA has exceeded one or both of the interim response levels for PFOA and PFOS in its groundwater wells.



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What should **I do?**

The City's water meets or surpasses all state and federal standards. Some customers may make the personal choice to use water filters or drink bottled water. Certified water filtration systems may reduce levels of PFAS below the Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory levels.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, unborn fetuses, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Those with other health conditions may wish to consult their doctor for further guidance.

What is the City doing **to address PFAS?**

While there are no current federal or state water quality standards for PFAS, the City of Downey is taking immediate, proactive steps to address detected levels of PFAS chemicals in the groundwater, including:



DESIGNING PFAS WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES



PURSuing GRANTS TO FUND PFAS WATER TREATMENT PROJECTS



INCREASING OUTREACH WITH OUR CUSTOMERS



**FILING OF A LAWSUIT AGAINST SEVERAL COMPANIES FOR THEIR
ROLES IN INTRODUCING PFAS INTO THE WATER SUPPLY**



CONDUCTING REGULAR WATER SAMPLING



**MONITORING THE STATE'S PLANS FOR FUTURE PFAS WATER QUALITY
STANDARDS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE**

Please share this information with people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand, email, or mail.

For more information, please find our PFAS
Frequently Asked Questions at

www.downeyca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5644

or contact the Public Works Utilities Division by
phone at 562-904-7202 or by mail at 9252 Stewart
& Gray Rd, Downey, CA 90241.