

## New Advisory Levels for PFHxS

### What is PFHxS?

PFHxS or perfluorohexane sulfonic acid is a member of a large class of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in many consumer products for their non-stick and water-, grease- and stain-resistant properties, and also in firefighting foams.

### What does PFHxS have to do with drinking water?

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.

### What are the new advisory levels for PFHxS provided by the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW)?

Issued on October 31, 2022, the new advisory levels are:

- Notification Level (NL): 3 parts per trillion (ppt)
- Response Level (RL): 20 parts per trillion (ppt)

### What do these notification and response levels mean?

Notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply.

The level at which DDW recommends water systems to consider providing treatment or removing a drinking water source from service is called the "response level." Starting in January 2020, water systems that receive an order and detect levels of PFAS substances that exceed their response level, shall take a water source out of use, treat the water delivered, or provide public notification.

Since the early 1980s, notification levels (known as "action levels" through 2004) for 93 contaminants have been established. Of those, 40 have gone through the formal regulatory process and now have MCLs.

### What is Zone 7 doing to keep my drinking water safe?

Zone 7 is committed to meeting public health standards and ensuring that our water meets our own rigorous water quality standards. Our water is thoroughly tested thousands of times per year and treated to ensure it meets water quality standards for state and federal regulations.

The community can rest assured that all water supplied to our customers **meets the regulatory standards** set by the state and federal governments and, in almost all cases, the quality was **significantly better** than required.

We have been conducting voluntary monitoring of PFAS chemicals in our systems since 2013 and following State regulatory testing requirements since the testing requirements were implemented in 2019. Monitoring data and more comprehensive information on PFAS chemicals can be viewed at [www.zone7water.com/pfas](http://www.zone7water.com/pfas).

PFHxS **has not** been detected in Zone 7's surface water supply, which accounts for approximately 60-70% of the water delivered to our customers.

PFHxS has been detected in some of Zone 7's groundwater supply, which are used to supplement Zone 7's surface water supply during peak demands. In response to the new advisory levels, Zone 7 has turned off the groundwater wells that do not have existing treatment capability to deliver water under the response level.

Meanwhile, to ensure we can continue delivering the high-quality water our customers expect Zone 7 plans to install PFAS treatment for two well sites. The project at the Stoneridge Well is under construction with a substantial completion date of summer 2023 and the project at the Chain-of-Lakes (COL) Wells will have the design completed in December 2022.

To learn about the current PFAS treatment projects under construction, visit [www.zone7water.com/stoneridge](http://www.zone7water.com/stoneridge) to learn about our Stoneridge Well and visit [www.zone7water.com/col](http://www.zone7water.com/col) to learn about our COL Wells.

### **What if I still have more questions?**

For more information about what Zone 7 does to keep your water safe, visit [www.zone7water.com/water-quality](http://www.zone7water.com/water-quality) or contact Water Quality at [waterquality@zone7water.com](mailto:waterquality@zone7water.com)