

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 7-10, 2025**

MANAGING PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

ISSUE: Congress and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have taken action to try and regulate the entire family of over 4,700 Per-And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals due to the known health risks associated with the two most common chemicals from the family, Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA).

These regulations place a significant financial and regulatory burden on water and wastewater agencies. While a partnership is needed to cleanup PFAS chemicals, requiring these agencies to meet strict treatment limits without liability protection will lead to substantially higher water, sewer, and recycled water bills for customers.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group requests the following related to PFAS legislation and water regulations:

- Support legislation to ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are shielded from liability under USEPA's proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) designation and instead hold the PFAS polluters responsible;
- Support efforts to ensure most costs for treatment and cleanup of PFAS are paid for by those responsible for introducing PFAS into the environment, not domestic water and sewer ratepayers;
- Support further development of scientifically-validated analytical methods to measure and understand the health effects of various PFAS more reliably and accurately in drinking water, wastewater, and solids; and
- Urge the Department of Defense (DOD) to be responsive in mitigating PFAS contamination of public water supplies specifically linked to DOD activities, which includes funding for:
 - Replacement water for the water supplies that have been taken out of service due to concerns over detections above the federal health advisory and state notification levels; and
 - The cost of water treatment infrastructure, operations, and maintenance necessary to mitigate the PFAS contamination and restore the water to drinking water quality.

BACKGROUND: PFAS are a family of over 4,700 man-made chemicals manufactured and utilized around the globe since the 1940s. PFAS are ubiquitous in our homes and the environment, and are used in common household, commercial, and industrial uses such as firefighting activities, stain and water repellents, food packaging, cosmetics, and non-stick cookware, to name a few uses. The chemicals persist in the environment and the human body – meaning they do not break down and accumulate over time. Two of the most common PFAS substances, PFOS and PFOA, have been linked to increased cancer and birth defect risks.

Last year, USEPA took several actions to address the presence of PFAS in the environment and reduce further exposure to these substances. As it relates to addressing the presence of PFAS in water and wastewater systems, the two most significant actions USEPA has undertaken include the following:

- Finalized the designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA. This designation puts drinking and clean water utilities at risk of incurring cleanup costs even when they have taken the proper steps to remove and dispose of the chemicals. Wastewater, water recycling, and stormwater utilities are at risk because they receive PFAS chemicals through the raw influent at the treatment plant or through municipal stormwater runoff. Even though water and wastewater facility operators did not create or cause PFAS, they could still be held liable through USEPA's proposed CERCLA designation.
- Announced the final Primary Drinking Water Regulation of six PFAS chemicals at legally enforceable parts per trillion levels. The rule requires public water systems to monitor the chemicals and take action to reduce PFAS pollution if contamination levels surpass the limits. Water systems would have five years to comply with the maximum containment levels.

Last year, the national water associations estimated that the cost for water systems to install treatment systems to remove PFOA and PFOS to levels required by the proposed USEPA regulation would exceed \$3.8 billion annually. These associations have also asserted that the proposed rule would require more than 5,000 water systems to develop new water sources or install advanced treatment technologies. Another 2,500 water systems in states with established standards would need to adjust their existing PFAS treatment systems.