

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**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 create substantial financial and operational burdens for water and wastewater agencies, which did not generate or introduce PFAS into the environment. 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 actions related to PFAS legislation and regulations:

- Support legislation, including H.R. 1267, that shields drinking water and wastewater agencies from CERCLA liability under USEPA’s proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and holds PFAS manufacturers directly accountable.  
Support measures requiring PFAS producers—not water and sewer customers—to fund the treatment and cleanup of PFAS contamination.
- Support expanded development of reliable analytical methods to better detect, characterize, and evaluate health risks across the full PFAS family.
- 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 large family of persistent man-made chemicals used in industrial, commercial, and household products, leading to widespread persistent environmental and human exposure. Two of the most common PFAS substances, PFOS and PFOA, have been linked to increased cancer and birth defect risks.

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. Despite not producing or using PFAS, water and wastewater agencies could still be held liable under CERCLA due to PFAS entering facilities through raw influent or stormwater runoff.
- 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 six PFAS compounds and implement treatment if levels exceed the enforceable limits. Water systems would have five years to comply with the maximum containment levels.

National water associations estimate that complying with the new PFAS treatment requirements will cost water systems more than \$3.8 billion annually and approximately 7,500 water systems to install new treatment or develop alternative water supplies.