



September 10, 2026

Mayor and City Council
City of Montebello
1600 West Beverly Boulevard
Montebello CA 90640

Subject: Notification of PFOA and PFOS and PFHxS Notification and Response Level Exceedance (Quarterly Sampling)

Dear City Council,

The purpose of this letter, consistent with Health and Safety Code Sections 116378 and 116455, is to inform you of the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water wells for South Montebello Irrigation District.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 116378 and 116455, South Montebello Irrigation District is required to inform its governing body and the governing body of any local agency whose jurisdiction includes the areas supplied with drinking water by South Montebello Irrigation District of concentrations exceeding the notification levels for PFAS. These notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels. When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain notification requirements and recommendations apply.

The DDW determined that the Notification and Response Level(s) have been exceeded for PFAS as set forth in the following table

PFAS	Notification Level	Response Level	Result	Health Effects
PFHxS	3.0 ng/L	10 ng/L	Well 3: 4.7 ng/L Well 7: 0 ng/L	PFHxS has been shown to interfere with thyroid hormones levels. Thyroid hormones are needed for normal prenatal growth and development of the fetus, as well as for normal growth and development in the infant and child. In adults, thyroid hormones are needed for normal metabolism and mental function.

PFOS*	4 ng/L	40 ng/L	Well 3: 37.25 ng/L Well 7: 14 ng/L	Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the Notification Level over many years may experience adverse health effects. PFOS exposures have been shown to cause immune suppression and cancer in laboratory animals.
PFOA*	4 ng/L	10 ng/L	Well 3: 12.23 ng/L Well 7: 4.9 ng/L	Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the Notification Level over many years may experience adverse health effects. PFOA exposures have been shown to cause increased liver weight and cancer in laboratory animals.

*= Calculated using Quarterly Running Annual Average

PFAS are manmade substances that have been synthesized for their heat, water, and oil resistance properties. They have been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes. The major sources of PFAS in drinking water are fire training and response sites, industrial sites, landfills, and wastewater treatment plants and biosolids. The origin of the contaminant in our water supply at this time is unknown but the water system is working with the State Water Board and other agencies to identify the circumstances of the contamination.

Additional information will be provided to our customers in the South Montebello Irrigation District Consumer Confidence Report that comes out July every year. South Montebello Irrigation District is currently in the process of constructing a PFA treatment plant at our headquarters to remove PFA substances that will be in operation 2027. We look forward to working with and having the cooperation of the City of Montebello on this and future projects to provide the best quality water possible to the residents of Montebello. **Every water system in the city of Montebello should be reporting the PFA's levels above the notification and response level to the City Council on a quarterly basis.**

Please refer to the following links for additional information about PFAS:

DDW PFAS Website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas.html

DDW PFAS Factsheet:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/2024/pfasfact-sheet-ddw-2024.pdf

South Montebello Irrigation District Customer Confidence Report:

<https://smid.specialdistrict.org/water-quality>

Sincerely,

South Montebello Irrigation District

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.

South Montebello Irrigation District Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

Above the Response Level

Our water system recently confirmed an average concentration of PFOA above the public health-based response level. PFOA may cause increased liver weight and cancer in the body. As our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The average level of PFOA over the last year was **12.23 ng/L**. This is above the State Water Board established response level of 10 nanograms per liter (ng/L).

What should I do?

- You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.
- This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the notification level over many years may experience adverse health effects. PFOA exposures have been shown to cause increased liver weight and cancer in laboratory animals.*
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

South Montebello Irrigation District is in the process of constructing a PFA treatment plant to remove these substances from the water set to be running in 2027.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

This notice is being sent to you by South Montebello Irrigation District

Please visit our website: <https://smid.specialdistrict.org/>

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