



Official Statement

PICO WATER DISTRICT WATER IS SAFE TO USE

The water provided by the Pico Water District (District) has been called in to question by an article in the Whittier Daily News that was published on September 1, 2019, along with other local media sources. The District's response to these media sources is the following: "the water provided to the public by the District currently meets and exceeds all State and Federal drinking water standards, and is therefore Safe to drink per California Health and Safety Code section 116681 definition (l)".

On March 15, 2019 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued an order to a number of community water systems throughout California to test for a group of chemicals known as PFAS over the course of four quarters (12 months). The testing reporting standards have been changing and newly enacted Assembly Bill 756 will require on and after January 1, 2020 that when the detection of these chemicals occurs at or above the notification level, the water system must notify its customers of the detection. The new notification level for the two chemicals of concern, as recently announced by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water, are 5.1 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 6.5 ppt for PFOS.

PFAS stands for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances and is the collective term for a large group of synthetic chemicals that includes perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS). The compounds were previously used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, furniture fabric, food packaging, nonstick cookware and firefighting foams.

As there have been no definitive studies on the quantities of these chemicals that are safe to consume, specific public health goals or maximum contaminant levels have not yet been established. The State is currently researching the impacts of PFAS in our communities. The testing of PFAS continues to be performed as a precautionary health-based measure to inform the public of possible exposures to PFAS chemicals.

Pico Water District tests its drinking water supply regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians working in state-certified laboratories. For more information about the quality of the water at Pico Water District, please review our annual water quality report at https://www.picowaterdistrict.net/Water_Quality

Please continue to monitor <https://www.picowaterdistrict.net/> for frequent updates or feel free to contact the district office at 562.692.3756 to speak to a customer service team member.