



12/12/24

PFAS Informational Workshop

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Agenda

- What are PFAS?
- Regulations and Testing
- Potential Solutions
- Community Outreach and Action
- Q&A



Sweetwater Authority's water is safe to drink and meets all current state and federal standards and guidelines.

PFAS levels were below the mitigation level, which means treatment is not required; however the level does require notifying customers.

One of four data points needed to get better picture of situation.



PFAS Explained



What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manmade chemicals found in common household items.



Causes of PFAS

PFAS can leak into water sources through the following:

- Industry
- Firefighting foam
- Waterproof clothing
- Food boxes/wrapping
- Non-stick pans
- Cleaning products
- Personal care products



Environment/water supply

PFAS are slow to break down and can move far from their original use areas.

When the products with PFAS are manufactured, used and then discarded, they enter the environment and can end up in water sources over time.

Sweetwater closely monitors and tests the water delivered to our customers; performing more than 15,000 measurements per year.

Where are PFAS Found?



Drinking Water

Drinking water contaminated by other sources of PFAS.



Waste Sites

Soil and water at or near landfills, disposable sites and hazardous waste sites.



Fire Extinguishing Foam

Used in training and emergency response events at airports and firefighting training facilities.



Facilities

Chrome plating, electronics and certain textile and paper manufacturers that produce or use PFAS.



Consumer products

Stain, water repellent or non-stick products, paints, sealants and some personal care products such as makeup.



Food Packaging

Grease resistant paper, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes and candy wrappers.



Biosolids

Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water.

PFAS in Water Supplies

How PFAS enters water supplies

- Firefighting foam
- Industrial discharges
- Landfills and wastewater
- Consumer products



Cost of PFAS Remediation

PFAS Remediation Costs by Market



Sweetwater is actively considering all available options for remediation, ensuring the best possible strategy to balance, safety, cost and efficiency.

Source: AECOM/Bank of America

Regulations and Testing – California

- **State of California** and **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** are taking significant steps to address PFAS
- **California** has one of the most **comprehensive PFAS testing and monitoring programs** in country
- Sweetwater has received monitoring orders from the State's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and reports under this program



Regulations and Testing – Federal

- Enforceable EPA regulations of six PFAS with the lowest level set at **4 PPT (parts per trillion)** taking effect in **2029**
- In April 2024, EPA required public water systems to perform one year of initial quarterly monitoring by 2027, in order to meet new standards by April 2029
- Sweetwater completed first round of initial monitoring in October 2024, while conducting required monitoring per Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, known as UCMR-5.



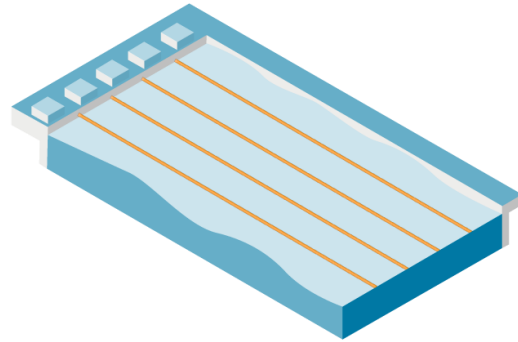
EPA PFAS Metrics Explained

4 Parts Per Trillion
of PFAS



=

1 drop of water  **in**
5 Olympic sized swimming pools



Initial Testing Results Received November 2024

PFAS	CA Notification Level	CA Response Level	Results
PFHxS	3 ppt	20 ppt	6.7 ppt
PFOA	5.1 ppt	10 ppt	9.4 ppt

Measured in parts per trillion (ppt)

Results received from water treated from Sweetwater Reservoir



Water Safety

- These PFAS levels were above the **California notification threshold**, meaning we are required to inform customers but **are not required to treat the water at this time**
- Based on current state and federal guidelines, your water is **safe to drink**
- The stricter federal regulations in **2029** will lower allowable thresholds, meaning water systems like ours will need to treat for even smaller amounts of PFAS

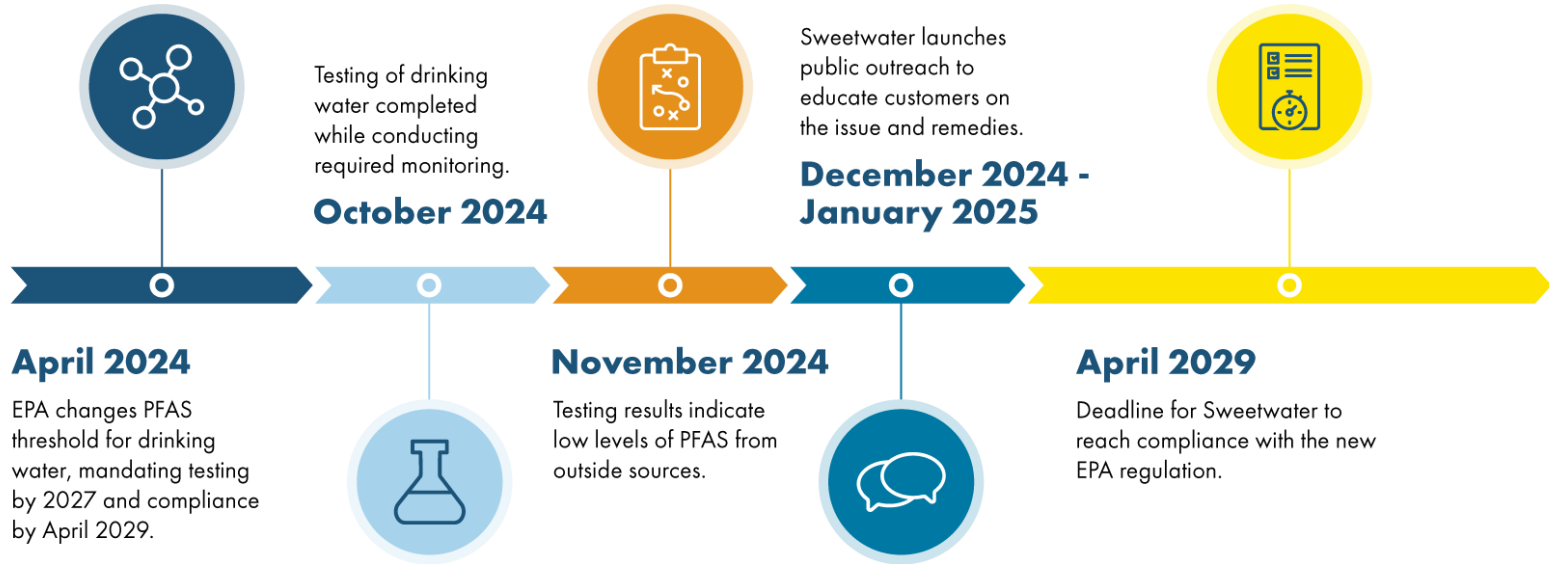


Ongoing Testing

- EPA requires more testing to obtain full picture of situation
 - Confirm exact levels in water supply
 - Required to perform quarterly monitoring for a 12 month period
 - Need three more quarterly tests in 2025: January 2025, April 2025 and July 2025
 - Will continue to test to gather more data to inform potential solutions
- Testing will continue through the end of 2025

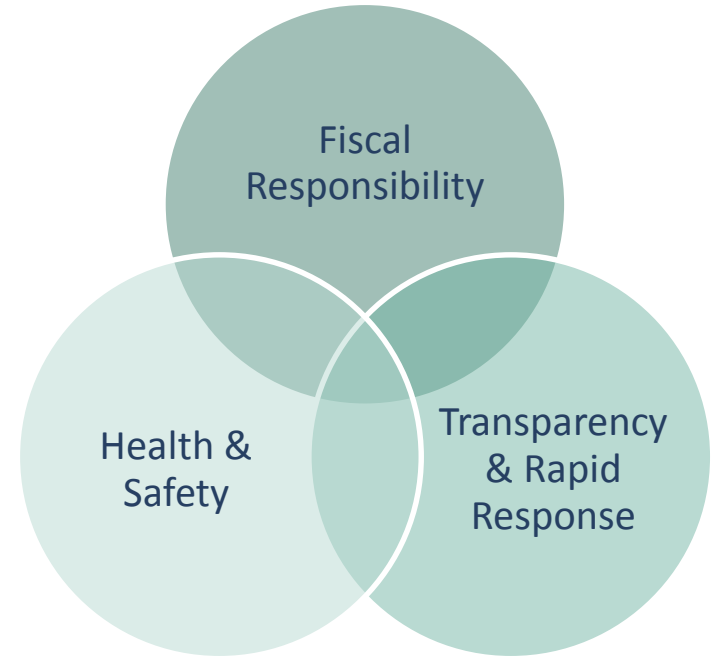


Sweetwater Authority PFAS Timeline



Potential Solutions for the Future

- This is a critical moment for us to plan for new EPA regulations
- Important to plan now because of **significant costs associated with treating PFAS**
- Advanced filtration systems require major investments in infrastructure and ongoing operational costs
- Switching to imported water adds significant cost



We are Taking Action



We are:



Trying to determine the source of the PFAS to prevent it from further contaminating our water sources.



Continue testing and monitoring for PFAS and keeping the community informed of the results.

We will be:



Considering building a purification facility that will use the best available technology to remove PFAS from our water supply and properly dispose of it.



Pursuing all possible cost saving measures to help offset the cost of needed infrastructure.

Community Collaboration

- Committed to engaging community and stakeholders throughout the process
- Next steps
 - Community Advisory Work Group updates: January 28, 2025
 - Three (3) workshops: February 2025
 - Bonita
 - Chula Vista
 - National City



How you can get involved



Visit
[www.sweetwater.org/
PFAS](http://www.sweetwater.org/PFAS)



Sign up for our
email list



Call us at
(619) 409-6786



Email
[PFAS@sweetwater.
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Attend a meeting

Q&A

