



PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 17, 2023

Subject: PFAS Detected in Lake Arrowhead Water Supply

The Lake Arrowhead Community Services District (LACSD or District) is committed to serving the highest quality drinking water to our customers. As part of this commitment, LACSD continually monitors the water that we deliver to ensure it meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. This notification is to inform the public that recent sample results have detected trace amounts of a class of chemicals referred to as PFAS.

Please remember that detecting a contaminant does not mean that the water is harmful to drink. The amount of PFAS detected in LACSD's drinking water is very small but safe levels of PFAS have not yet been established. LACSD is taking preemptive action to reduce the levels of PFAS and will ensure that the drinking water complies with the regulations once they are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of California. These agencies have been studying the health effects of PFAS to determine the safe limits of exposure. The EPA's lifetime health advisory includes a margin of protection that takes into account exposure from other sources. For this reason, the EPA wants to eliminate all PFAS from drinking water sources so the proposed regulatory limits will be set at very low levels. This is a challenge that many water agencies are facing across the country.

Where does PFAS come from?

The water LACSD serves is mostly from Lake Arrowhead, with a lesser amount from groundwater wells and imported water. It is not immediately clear where the PFAS chemicals are coming from since our area has very little industry and the water is sourced solely by precipitation and runoff. Unfortunately, PFAS is found everywhere and comes from products that are resistant to heat, water and oil such as firefighting foam, textiles, detergents, and items with stain and water-resistant coatings.

What is LACSD doing?

It takes a full year of testing to determine the levels of PFAS but LACSD is not waiting for the complete results. We are working swiftly to evaluate the best options to remove these chemicals from the drinking water supply. At the same time, we will continue to study the watershed to identify and eradicate the source(s). Preliminary investigations suggest that Lake Arrowhead has higher levels of PFAS than the groundwater supply does.

What can our customers do?

While the water is safe to drink, concerned citizens might consider installing water filters in their homes. Water filters are always recommended due to unknown conditions in home plumbing and many of these filters can also remove PFAS. Check with the manufacturer and be sure the filter is certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Bottled water may also contain PFAS so verify those water sources as well.

Is it safe to shower or swim?

The EPA states that only a small amount of PFAS can get into your body through your skin. Therefore, showering, bathing, and washing dishes in water containing PFAS are unlikely to significantly increase your risk. The amount of PFAS in Lake Arrowhead is very small and, because it is not readily absorbed by the skin, it is safe for swimming.

You can find more information from the EPA at this link: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>

Drinking Water Testing

The regulation of PFAS chemicals in drinking water has not yet been finalized. In March, 2023, the EPA released a proposed maximum limit of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS which is currently the lowest level a laboratory can detect. If this rule is finalized, public water systems will have a specified amount of time to reduce levels below that limit. Interim advisory levels are included in the table below for reference.

Amounts are nanograms per liter (ng/L), also referred to as parts per trillion (ppt).

ND = Not Detected, TBD = To Be Determined

Chemical	EPA Advisory	CA Response Level	Treatment Plant 1	Treatment Plant 1	Treatment Plant 2 ¹
			Test Date 2/7/2023	Test Date 5/3/2023	Test Date 5/3/2023
PFOA	4.0	10.0	9.6	8.7	12.0
PFOS	20.0	40.0	4.5	4.6	5.9
PFHpA	TBD	TBD	4.1	3.8	5.6
PFHxA	TBD	TBD	4.7	4.6	6.6
PFPeA	TBD	TBD	3.5	3.7	3.9
PFDA	TBD	TBD	ND	ND	3.0

¹Treatment Plant 2 has been taken out of service.

Undetected Chemicals

LACSD also tested for the following chemicals but they were not detected in the drinking water.

- ADONA
- NFDHA
- PFBS
- PFHpS
- PFMPA
- PFTA
- 11Cl-PF3OUdS
- 8:2 FTS
- HFPO-DA
- NMeFOSAA
- PFDoA
- PFHxS
- PFNA
- PFTrDA
- 4:2 TFS
- 9Cl-Pf3ONS
- NtFOSAA
- PFBA
- PFEESA
- PFMBA
- PFPeS
- PFUnA
- 6:2 FTS

More information about the EPA’s proposed regulation can be found at this link:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Public%20FAQs_PFAS_NPDWR_Final_4.4.23.pdf

Source Testing

The following tests were conducted on raw water samples to try to understand where the substances are coming from. These samples were from water that had not yet been treated. It is important to note that **these are not drinking water results**. Our current treatment process removes a portion of these chemicals. There is no regulatory limit applicable to these samples at this time.

Amounts are nanograms per liter (ng/L), also referred to as parts per trillion (ppt).

ND = Not Detected

Chemical	North Bay	Emerald Bay	Meadow Bay	Groundwater Well #2	Groundwater Well #5	Groundwater Well #6
PFOA	16.0	16.0	16.0	6.2	ND	ND
PFOS	6.6	6.2	7.5	5.5	ND	ND
PFHpA	5.7	6.0	5.4	ND	ND	ND
PFHxA	6.1	5.8	5.8	3.6	2.0	ND
PFPeA	5.4	5.4	ND	2.8	ND	ND
PFDA	3.6	3.5	4.5	ND	ND	ND
PFTDA	ND	ND	2.4	ND	ND	ND
PFBS	2.6	2.7	2.5	6.5	2.1	ND
PFHxS	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.2	ND	ND
PFNA	4.7	5.2	6.0	ND	ND	ND

Chemical	Grass Valley Lake	Blue Jay Creek	Burnt Mill Creek	Flemming Creek	Orchard Creek	Emerald Bay Creek
PFOA	9.3	ND	ND	ND	ND	6.5
PFOS	11.0	4.1	3.8	3.8	ND	12.0
PFHpA	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PFHxA	7.6	ND	ND	ND	ND	3.3
PFPeA	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PFDA	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PFTDA	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PFBS	6.7	ND	ND	2.4	ND	11.0
PFHxS	5.3	ND	ND	ND	ND	3.3
PFNA	2.4	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Additional testing has been conducted for which results have not yet been received. We will continue to update our website with more information as it becomes available at lakearrowheadcsd.com or call us at (909) 336-7100.

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Lake Arrowhead Community Services District provides water and wastewater services to over 8,400 accounts in the communities of Arrowhead Woods, Deer Lodge Park and Rimforest and provides wastewater services to an additional 2,300 accounts in the surrounding communities including Twin Peaks, Blue Jay, Agua Fria and Arrowhead Villas in the San Bernardino Mountains.