FACTS ABOUT: *PFAS and Water Quality*

PFAS or Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Contaminants such as PFAS may have serious impacts on the safety of drinking water and human health. EBMUD remains steadfastly committed to protecting public health through watershed protection, analysis, and water treatment. We seek and monitor for regulated and unregulated contaminants to stay ahead of potential health risks.

Regulatory Changes

On April 9, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency set new enforceable standards for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.

EBMUD's treated water delivered to customers already meets these new federal requirements based on preliminary sampling. If future sampling indicates a larger impact from these compounds, EBMUD will take action to maintain compliance. EBMUD water meets or surpasses federal and state standards for safety.

You can learn more about your water quality and view our latest Annual Water Quality Report in English, Spanish, and Chinese at ebmud.com/waterquality

Check ebmud.com/PFAS or call 1-866-403-2683 if you have questions or want to report a concern about your water quality.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in many consumer products and industrial applications worldwide since the 1940s. There are thousands of different PFAS chemicals. Sources of these pervasive, long-lasting chemicals include food packaging, household and personal care products, and some manufacturing facilities. PFAS can contaminate food, water, air and soil, and may have serious impacts on human health.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are two PFAS that have been well studied. They are no longer manufactured in the United States but are still produced internationally and imported in consumer goods. Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) and its ammonium salt (referred to as "GenX chemicals") are considered a replacement for PFOA. Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid and its potassium salt (PFBS) is considered a replacement for PFOS. All four of these PFAS are now regulated in drinking water, along with two additional PFAS: perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

EBMUD's Water Supply and Service Area

EBMUD's drinking water sources are well protected. The Mokelumne River watershed and Pardee Reservoir are in the Sierra Nevada foothills, far from industrial contamination sources. Local reservoirs, such as Briones, Upper San Leandro, and San Pablo reservoirs are also fairly well protected by undeveloped watershed lands. But even these well-protected reservoirs can have trace amounts of PFAS due to stormwater from nearby urban areas.

The service area is 326-square miles that extends from Crockett in the north to San Lorenzo in the south, and east from San Francisco Bay through the Oakland-Berkeley hills to Walnut Creek and south through the San Ramon Valley. The service area includes 20 cities/towns and 26 unincorporated areas, and the total population served is 1.4 million customers.

The wastewater service area covers 87-square miles along the east shore of San Francisco Bay extending from Richmond in the north to Oakland in the south and provides wastewater treatment service for 740,000 households.

Monitoring of PFAS

Water systems are required to monitor and, if necessary, provide treatment for these compounds. The new regulation includes maximum allowable concentrations of PFOS

and PFOA – each at 4.0 ng/L, and PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA – each at 10 ng/L. In addition to the maximum allowable levels for the individual chemicals, EPA is requiring compliance with a Hazard Index which is a calculation designed to address the health risk associated with a mixture of PFAS in drinking water. The Hazard Index includes PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. Compliance is determined by averaging samples over a running 12-month period.

EBMUD began sampling its treated water in 2020 before these requirements took effect to be proactive. PFAS compounds have been detected in the local East Bay watersheds due to runoff from stormwater flowing through suburban areas.

More recently, Federal testing requirements for 29 PFAS compounds began in 2023 as part of a USEPA nationwide monitoring effort. All samples from EBMUD's treatment plants collected as part of this program have been below EPA's reporting limits for the six newly regulated PFAS. All data can be found here using EPA's data finder: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder

What's Next?

We will continue to monitor and take action if needed to ensure that the water delivered to the consumers remains safe.

Pardee Dam

EBMUD