

An Update from the Board of Commissioners

To Our Valued Customers,

We sent each of you a letter in August regarding our recent actions as it relates to PFAS—per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances--detected in our water. If you didn't get to see our letter, it is available on our website @ www.lakewoodwater.org under "District News, PFAS Updates August 6, 2020." In the meantime, we wanted to reiterate a couple important points and give you some supplemental information.

As you know, Lakewood Water District has been providing clean, safe, reliable drinking water to our customers since 1943. Our focus today is the same as it's always been—providing excellent water delivery and service to you, our customers.

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the world since the 1940s in food packaging, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam, and many other commercial household and workplace products. There is evidence these chemicals can lead to undesirable health effects. PFAS in our groundwater came from firefighting foam used and disposed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

We want you to know that the water the District supplies continues to be absolutely safe to drink. The water delivered to your tap meets all state and federal drinking water regulations to protect your health.

We are taking proactive steps to solve the PFAS issue.

Protecting Your Health

The EPA has set health advisory levels for PFAS at 70 parts per trillion (70 ppt) that offer a margin of protection for the most vulnerable people. For years now, we have routinely tested our water to monitor any PFAS levels and have turned off or filtered affected wells when levels approached or exceeded the EPA's lifetime health advisory levels. We will continue to routinely sample our wells and monitor for PFAS and will turn off or filter affected wells when levels approach or exceed the EPA 's lifetime health advisory.

Mitigating Future Costs

We are seeking every avenue of funding to help pay for water supply protections necessary for PFAS. We recently filed a lawsuit to recover our costs from the U.S. Government and the manufacturers of firefighting foam in the amount of \$377,358,750. This amount was calculated to fund the construction, maintenance, and replacement costs of Lakewood Water District's water filtration systems over the next 55 years. Our consultants have determined we must construct multiple facilities to dilute or remove

PFAS from as many as six well sites: Ponders, Scotts, 88th and Pine, Interlaaken, Washington Boulevard, and Country Place. In addition to removing PFAS as necessary, we will need to continue monitoring these sites to ensure PFAS concentrations in the District's water supplies remain at safe levels.

Aside from cost recovery, we aim to accomplish the following via court order: prohibiting the United States from further using or storing PFAS at Joint Base Lewis-McChord; requiring the United States to investigate, prevent, and remedy PFAS impacts to the District's water supplies; and declaring the United States and PFAS manufacturers liable for any future costs associated with PFAS contamination.

Given that litigation can be a lengthy process, we are also looking to funding sources from the U.S. Government and the State of Washington outside of litigation. First, Congress is providing funds to the Department of Defense to conduct a cleanup operation at Joint Base Lewis-McChord that may contain and prevent the further spread of PFAS. Second, we are working to secure funds designated for addressing PFAS contamination from the state and federal legislatures. Last, the District may be eligible to apply for grants and loans from the Washington Department of Ecology, Department of Commerce, and Department of Health to help implement the District's water supply protection plans. By seeking funding through these various avenues, we place high priority on maintaining reasonable water supply rates and preventing our customers from facing any additional costs.

From all of us at Lakewood Water District, thank you for the opportunity to be your drinking water provider. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns at 253/588-4423.

Sincerely,

Your Lakewood Water District Board of Commissioners