



San Jose Water
Water Quality and Environmental Services
1221A S Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128



Nina Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
Valley Water
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Transmitted Electronically on January 3, 2020

Subject: PFOS Notification

Dear Official,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that San Jose Water (SJW) has found concentrations of perfluorooctyl sulfonate (PFOS) in exceedance of the Notification Level in six of SJW's 83 groundwater wells. The Notification Level was adopted on August 23, 2019 by the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 116455, SJW is required to inform its governing body and the governing body of any local agency whose jurisdiction includes the areas supplied with drinking water with concentrations exceeding the PFOS Notification Level of 0.0065 µg/L. Notification Levels are health-based advisory levels established by the DDW for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels.

PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) have been extensively produced and studied in the United States. These manmade substances have been synthesized for water and fat resistance. They have been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes. The origin of the contaminant in our water supply at this time is unknown; however, SJW is working with DDW and other agencies to determine how it was introduced into our groundwater supply.

SJW voluntarily began monitoring all of its wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) beginning in 2019, ahead of the DDW order to monitor select wells issued on March 12, 2019. Once PFOS, a chemical in the PFAS group, was found in concentrations above the Notification Level in six of its wells, SJW immediately discontinued the use of these wells. This step was taken out of an abundance of caution in the absence of a regulatory limit and will not affect SJW's ability to deliver safe, high quality, and reliable water service to customers.

SJW customers are no longer receiving water with concentrations of PFOS above the Notification Level. The Notification Level for PFOS is 6.5 part per trillion. One part per trillion (ng/L) corresponds to a penny in \$10 billion.

The concentration levels measured in SJW groundwater are summarized in Table 1. Maps of the affected areas are provided in Figures 1 and 2.

In addition to this notification, SJW plans to send a separate letter to all of its affected customers. More information about PFAS can be found at <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/> and www.sjwater.com/pfas.

Background:

If a chemical is present in drinking water that is provided to consumers at concentrations considerably greater than the Notification Level, for instance at the Response Level set by DDW, DDW requires that the drinking water system take the source out of service. SJW is continuing to monitor the levels in our source(s) and has not exceeded the Response Level at this time. Additional information will be provided to our customers in the SJW Consumer Confidence Report that will be published in April of 2020.

Potential Health Effects:

Per DDW, based on the current evaluation of recent human and animal toxicity data, exposure to PFOA and PFOS in tap water over certain levels may result in adverse health effects including hepatotoxicity, immunotoxicity, thyroid toxicity, reproductive toxicity, and cancer (pancreatic and liver).

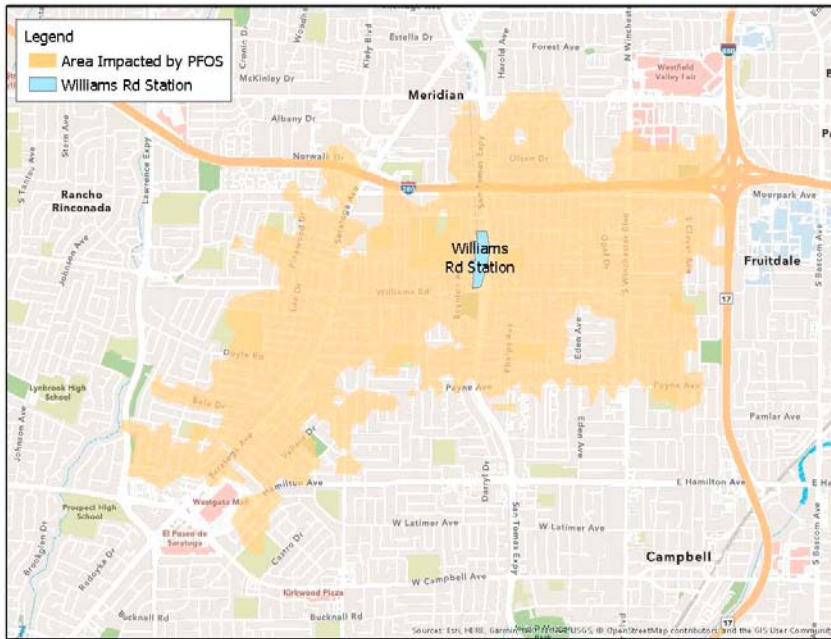
Table 1 – Wells with detection of PFOS >0.0065 ug/L

Well ID	Sample Date	Parameter Name	Report Result	Report Units
Williams Rd 2	06/25/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0072	ug/L
Williams Rd 14	11/15/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0066	ug/L
Williams Rd 15	06/26/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0082	ug/L
Willow Glen Way 3	06/19/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0078	ug/L
Willow Glen Way 4	05/15/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0074	ug/L
Willow Glen Way 5	06/19/2019	Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0074	ug/L

Figure 1 – Map of area that may have received water from Willow Glen wells with PFOS concentrations >0.0065 ug/L



Figure 2 – Map of area that may have received water from Williams wells with PFOS concentrations >0.0065 ug/L



If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like more information on PFAS, please call Francois Rodigari, Director of Water Quality & Environmental Services, at (408) 279-7967.

Sincerely,

John Tang, P.E.
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Government Relations, San Jose Water Company

- CC: SJW Board of Directors
Andrew R. Gere, P.E., SJW President & Chief Operating Officer
Curtis A. Rayer, SJW VP of Operations
Francois Rodigari, SJW Director of Water Quality & Environmental Services
Adam S. Feffer, P.E., SJW Manager of Water Quality
Liann Walborsky, SJW Director of Corporate Communications
California Public Utilities Commission
Eric Lacy, P.E., District Engineer, DDW Santa Clara District
Dr. Sara Cody, Public Health Officer, Santa Clara County



San Jose Water
Water Quality and Environmental Services
1221A S Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128



June 15, 2020

Peter Zhou, P.E., Water Quality Manager
Valley Water
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Transmitted electronically on June 15, 2020

Subject: PFOS Notification for Malone Wells

Dear Peter Zhou, P.E.:

We are writing to you today to let you know about the results of recent testing that took place on water wells at Malone Station. On June 1, 2020, SJW received laboratory results indicating that its two wells at this location had concentrations of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) above the Notification Level, a set level at which we are required to inform affected customers and public officials about the results.

A similar letter informing the 2,874 customers with water service in the area shown in the map below, will be mailed this week. As shown in the map, the affected customers mostly reside in District 6, with a smaller number in Districts 7 and 9 within the City of San Jose. All affected customers are within County Supervisorial District 2.

What did SJW do?

Upon learning of the test results, SJW **immediately discontinued the use of these wells** on the day this was discovered (June 1). As a result, **our impacted customers are no longer receiving water with concentrations of PFOS above the NL**. SJW took this step out of an abundance of caution. The PFOS concentrations in the wells did not rise to the level at which DDW recommends taking these wells out of service, but we always want to ensure the safest and highest quality water for our service areas.

Do customers need to take action based on this information?

In its letter to the affected customers, SJW has encouraged landlords, businesses and schools to share the information we provided with non-billed water customers at their locations.

What is a Notification Level?

Notification Levels are health-based advisory levels that are established for chemicals for which there are no formal regulatory standards. If one of these chemicals is identified in our wells in a concentration that is equal to or greater than the Notification Level, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 116455, SJW is required to inform its affected customers, governing body (CPUC), the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water

(DDW), and the local agency whose jurisdiction includes the areas served by SJW. No other action is required to be taken under this provision.

In the absence of a Public Health Goal, DDW has adopted a health-based advisory NL for PFOS. The current Notification Level for PFOS was adopted on August 23, 2019. In addition to the NL, DDW has also adopted a Response Level (RL) for PFOS. The Response Level is the concentration at which DDW recommends taking the source of water out of service. The current NL and RL for PFOS are 0.0065 ug/L and 0.04 ug/L respectively.

What is PFOS?

PFOS is a manmade substance that has been extensively produced and studied in the United States. PFOS has been widely used in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, furniture fabrics, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick. In addition, PFOS has been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes.

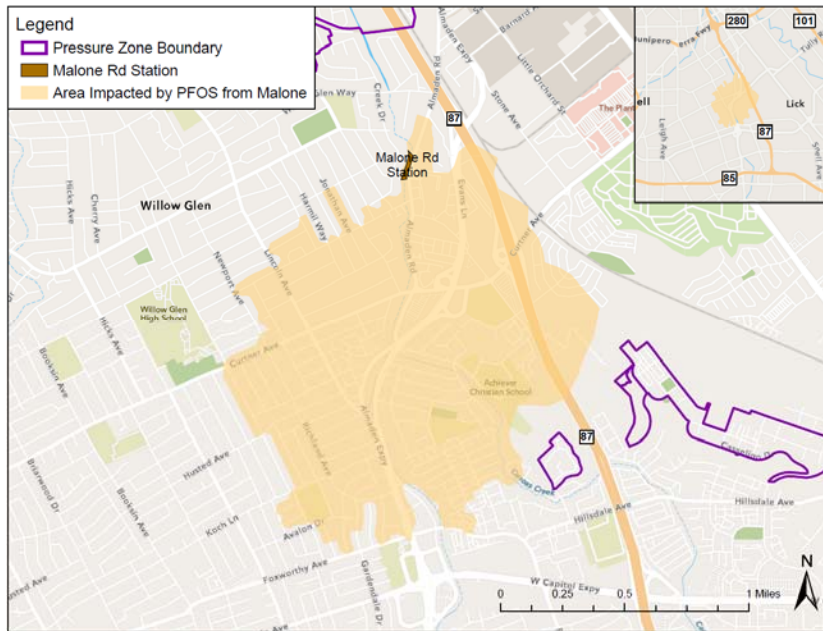
The origin of PFOS in our water supply at this time is unknown; however, SJW is working with DDW and Valley Water to determine the source of PFOS in our groundwater supply at Malone Station. More information about PFOS and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the group of chemicals that includes PFOS, is available at <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/>, www.sjwater.com/pfas and www.sjwater.com/ccr.

The concentration levels measured in SJW groundwater at Malone Station are summarized in Table 1. A map of the affected areas is displayed in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Wells with detection of PFOS >0.0065 ug/L

Well ID	Data Received On	Parameter Name	Report Result	Report Units
Malone Rd 1	6/1/2020	Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0079	ug/L
Malone Rd 2	6/1/2020	Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0080	ug/L

Figure 1 – Map of area that may have received water from Malone wells with PFOS concentrations >0.0065 ug/L



Public Health Notice

PFOS is readily absorbed but not readily eliminated from the human body. Health effects associated with long-term exposure include harmful effects to a developing fetus or infant; harmful effects to the immune system, thyroid and liver; and cancer. The notification level and response level are based on recommendations that provide a margin of protection against these health effects in sensitive populations. They are also established at concentrations associated with a low cancer risk over a lifetime of exposure. The risk would be lower once the contaminant is eliminated or reduced in the water supply. In addition to water, humans can be exposed to PFOS through a variety of sources, including food, dust in homes and imported consumer products.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like more information on PFAS, please call Francois Rodigari, SJW Director of Water Quality & Environmental Services, at (408) 279-7967. **Our top priority is to deliver safe, high-quality and reliable water service to our customers every day. We encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.**

Sincerely,



John Tang P.E.
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Government Relations

CC: SJW Board of Directors
Eric Lacy, P.E., District Engineer, DDW Santa Clara District