

# Montebello Land & Water Company

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RE: Update on detection of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Water System

Montebello Land & Water Company (MLWC) continues to prioritize providing safe and reliable water to its customers. MLWC regularly tests the water it pumps from the underground aquifer to ensure the water is safe, and follows instructions from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). MLWC's testing examines the presence of a group of human-made chemicals, which are not found naturally in our environment, called Perfluorooctanoic acid ("PFOA") and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid ("PFOS"), both are among a larger group of chemicals referred to as per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

PFAS were historically used in industrial and consumer products worldwide since the 1940s, up until manufacturers began voluntarily phasing them out in the 2000s. No longer found in the United States, the group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals are still made in and imported from other countries. These chemicals are used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical reactions and repel oil, stains, grease, and water. Some everyday products that may contain PFAS include non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing and materials, cleaning products, cosmetics, food packaging materials, and some personal care products. They do not break down easily and have been widespread in the environment for many years.

MLWC is required by California law to **notify MLWC's customers** when the water it provides contains in excess of 40 parts per trillion for PFOS. For PFOA, notification is required if the level is over 10 parts per trillion. For PFHxS, notification is required if the level is over 3 parts per trillion. *Parts per trillion* is a **microscopic** measurement. For perspective, 10 to 40 parts per trillion is comparable to a few grains of sand in an Olympic-size swimming pool filled with beach sand. The presence of PFAS can be found in drinking water throughout the United States and is not unique to Montebello. In response, MLWC is building a new central water treatment facility to filter PFAS from the water.

As a follow-up to MLWC's previous notification in July, we tested the water from our wells, and the results indicate that PFAS compounds in excess of the level requiring notification are present in all of our wells. Below are the test results.

| PFOA Results (ng/L)<br>(Parts per trillion) |                | PFOS Results (ng/L)<br>(Parts per trillion) |                | PFHxS Results (ng/L)<br>(Parts per trillion) |                |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Well #                                      | 4 Quarter Avg. | Well #                                      | 4 Quarter Avg. | Well #                                       | 4 Quarter Avg. |
| 7   | 20.25          | 7   | 57.25          | 7  | 7.3            |
| 8   | 13.50          | 8   | 39.75          | 8  | 5.8            |
| 9   | 15.75          | 9   | 48.00          | 9  | 5.8            |
| 10  | 15.75          | 10  | 51.50          | 10   | 6.2            |
| 11  | 14.25          | 11  | 43.25          | 11   | 7.3            |
| 12  | 13.50          | 12  | 38.50          | 12   | 5.9            |
| 14  | 3.70           | 14  | 44.50          | 14   | 6.4            |

So far, scientific research studies indicate that exposure to PFAS can lead to significant adverse health effects, especially in pregnant women or women likely to become pregnant and in children. Studies also show that PFAS may affect growth, learning and behavior of babies and older children, affect the immune system, increase cholesterol levels, and increase cancer risk.

The water-resistant properties of PFAS make it challenging to remove from water; however, there are proven treatment options. We are taking the following SWRCB recommended measures to remove the chemicals from the water:

- MLWC’s central treatment facilities, which are planned to be constructed at the MLWC yard where several wells are located, will help to better remove PFAS from the groundwater.
- MLWC has completed the construction of a pipeline that connects 2 external water wells to the new central treatment facility.
- MLWC continues construction for the development of the centralized PFAS treatment facility. If you have plans to come to our office to make a payment, please be aware and mindful of the construction in progress.
- As we continue this process, MLWC will continue monitoring for PFAS in the water and all test results will be available to our customers via our website ([www.mtblw.com](http://www.mtblw.com)).
- We have also included two additional links below about PFAS and different treatment technologies.

As always, MLWC will continue to stay abreast of regulatory developments to ensure ongoing compliance with all drinking water standards and requirements. Most importantly, MLWC will continue to monitor water quality to ensure that our drinking water remains safe for all of our customers. Our ultimate goal is water-free of PFAS. In the near term, unfortunately, we are likely to continue encountering traces of PFAS in groundwater for reasons beyond our control.

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For more information on PFAS, visit these websites:

- Environmental Protection Agency  
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>  
[Reducing PFAS in Drinking Water with Treatment Technologies | US EPA](#)
- California Water Boards - Division of Drinking Water  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas.html)  
[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)
- US Food and Drug Administration  
<https://www.fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

We strongly encourage you to share this information with everyone in your household. Please visit our website [www.mtblw.com](http://www.mtblw.com) to view the PFAS Frequently Asked Questions document. If you have any questions about this notice, please call Korey Bradbury at (323) 722-8654.

Warmly,

Korey Bradbury  
General Manager