Montebello Land & Water Company

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October 19, 2025

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 has identified 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 manufactured in the United States, this 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 June, 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) (Parts per trillion)	
Well #	4 Quarter Avg.
7	18.25
8	14.50
9	18.25
10	17.25
11	14.75
12	17.75
14	3.83

PFOA Results (ng/L) (Parts per trillion)	
Well #	4 Quarter Avg.
7	60.00
8	50.25
9	55.00
10	57.25
11	41.25
12	48.75
14	42.75

PFHxS Results (ng/L) (Parts per trillion)	
Well #	4 Quarter Avg.
7	5.8
8	5.5
9	5.7
10	6.2
11	7.5
12	6.0
14	6.2

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 under construction 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 has completed the delivery of the treatment vessels and piping. We continue to work with the State (DDW) on obtaining the operational permit for the treatment facility.
- MLWC has initiated the startup process by installing the filter media and taking the preliminary samples working directly with the State (DDW).
- 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.
- During the construction process and once treatment begins, 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).

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.

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
  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 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