



County of San Luis Obispo is committed to public health and safety.

The health and safety of county residents is the highest priority for the County of San Luis Obispo. The County is working cooperatively with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) as it assesses the quality of the County's groundwater. At present, County supplied water continues to meet both federal and state water quality standards and is safe for customers to consume. For more detailed information on water quality in specific county areas, residents can contact their local water providers or the CCRWQCB.

How can I learn more?

For more information about PFAS, or water quality testing, visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/ or contact your local water provider for information specific to your community.

RESOURCES

EPA:

www.epa.gov/pfas

California State Water Resources Control Board:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast

County of San Luis Obispo – Water Resources:

www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Our-Divisions/Water-Resources.aspx

Food and Drug Administration:

www.fda.gov/food/chemical-contaminants-food/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas



PFAS

**A multi-agency approach
to assess PFAS in the
unincorporated areas of
San Luis Obispo County.**

www.slocounty.ca.gov/pfas

What is PFAS?

PFAS are a family of chemicals. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS) are chemicals that are prevalent in the environment and were once commonly used in many consumer goods, such as non-stick and stain-resistant products, food packaging, fire-fighting foam, and industrial processes.

How are people are exposed to PFAS?

PFAS are extensively used world-wide in a broad spectrum of products and industries. PFAS man-made chemicals that are found in a variety of commonly manufactured products, including non-stick cookware, stain resisting products, firefighting foams, food packaging, paints, clothing, pesticides, shampoo, fabrics, carpeting and many other products. Due to the extensive use of PFAS, the chemicals have found their way into our environment through disposal in landfills, consumer use of PFAS-containing products, through conventionally treated wastewater, and through outdoor industrial processes. The chemicals are persistent in the environment, meaning they do not break down naturally and can accumulate over time.

What are the major sources of PFAS?



INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTIES



FIRE TRAINING/
FIRE RESPONSE
AREAS



WASTEWATER
TREATMENT
PLANTS



LANDFILLS

What is the County of San Luis Obispo doing about PFAS?

In March 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued an Order to 30 airports statewide, including the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, to determine the presence of PFAS. In compliance with the Order, the County conducted a preliminary investigation of soil, sediment, and groundwater between November 2019 and August 2020. Results to the SWRCB Order and addition CCRWQCB directives were reported in Fall 2020 with additional work as outlined in the March 31, 2021 workplan and revisions submitted by the County of San Luis Obispo to the CCRWQCB.

Looking ahead, the County of San Luis Obispo will be conducting additional groundwater testing as appropriate and continued outreach efforts will occur as new information is available.

What is the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doing about PFAS?

In May 2016, the EPA replaced the earlier provisional advisories with a lifetime health advisory, including the most sensitive populations, of a combined 70 parts per trillion (PPT) for drinking water. Based on preliminary information from the EPA, 63 water suppliers in the United States detected PFAS in their drinking water supplies. Of the 63, twenty-six (26) of these water systems are located in California. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states' agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. The EPA is moving forward with the enforceable Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) process for PFAS. It is also gathering and evaluating information to determine if regulation is appropriate for a broader class of PFAS. While EPA is responsible for the safety of drinking water, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled drinking water. EPA standards are more stringent regarding the regulation of public drinking water.

What is California doing about PFAS?

In July 2018, California's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) established interim drinking water Notification and Response Levels for PFAS. Results above the Notification Level require agencies to notify the governing body for the areas where the water has been served within 30 days of receiving the verifying test results. If the Response Level is exceeded in drinking water provided to consumers, DDW recommends that the water agency remove the water source from service or provide treatment.

In April 2019, DDW sent monitoring orders to more than 200 public water systems across the state to test for PFAS. The comprehensive list of monitoring orders included 612 drinking water supply wells in California. Wells were selected on the basis of proximity to either landfills, airports, or past detections of PFAS in wells. The data provided by this testing will help DDW determine standards for PFAS in drinking water.

In August 2019, DDW announced a new Notification Level of PFAS, 5.1 parts per trillion (ppt) and 6.5 ppt, respectively. In February 2020, DDW announced a new Response Level of 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS.

