

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES-WATER COMMITTEE

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2019

ITEM NO:

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S ACTION ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID AND PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE

ISSUE:

Receive the California Environmental Protection Agency's action on chemical substances perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities receive the California Environmental Protection Agency's action on chemical substances perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate.

BACKGROUND:

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are anthropogenic are man made chemical substances for water and lipid resistance produced in the United States. Exposure to these chemicals occurs by the use of consumer products manufactured to be waterproof, stain-resistant, or non-stick. In addition, these chemicals are used in fire-retarding foam and in various industrial processes. Blood tests show detection in nearly all people tested.

Regulators are concerned over PFOS and PFOA exposure through drinking water due to its tendency to accumulate in groundwater. Groundwater contamination may be associated with a specific facility where these chemicals were manufactured or in areas where these chemicals were used as part of other products.

DISCUSSION:

Riverside Public Utility (RPU) is conducting testing of its wells and thus far, preliminary data is showing detection of these compounds in 13 of 29 wells tested. However, the detection levels are below the California Environmental Protection Agency's established notification and response levels at the City's point of compliance. No action is currently needed as the City's wells are in compliance. The results of this testing will be reported in the City's Annual Water Quality Report. The Board of Public Utilities will be notified if levels ever exceed compliance levels. If this occurs, corrective action will be taken immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The additional testing is estimated to cost approximately \$60,000, which is accounted for in the City's

current laboratory contract.

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