

MOTION

In 2023, for the first time ever, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power detected Polyfluoroalkyl and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in only two water sources within the San Fernando Valley, at the Pollock Well Field, and at the Tujunga Well Field. Fortunately, the recent disturbing detection is from a non-operating well, with results well within the safe zone just recently identified by the federal government. These pollutants known as “forever chemicals” are noted to be directly linked to a wide range of health issues: cancer, liver and heart damage, developmental issues with children and more. The possibility of contamination is serious, especially due to the nature of PFAS, which needs only a few particles *per trillion* to cause sickness in people and animals.

On April 10th 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration and the US Environmental Protection Agency announced the first ever legally enforceable drinking standards aimed at protecting Americans from Polyfluoroalkyl / Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The goal of the rules is to ensure that every locality and jurisdiction can detect, treat, and ensure PFAS and other substances are not seeping into water sources.

The important announcement from the Biden administration on the comprehensive strategy with respect to PFAS contamination illustrates the need for immediate action with respect to testing, neighborhood protection, and holding polluters accountable. In Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has for years been working to ensure that these “forever chemicals” do not find their way to LADWP customers. Additionally, the Bureau of Sanitation should report back on the detection of PFAS within both the solid waste and wastewater sewer systems.


The Department of Water and Power, and the Bureau of Sanitation should ensure that testing wherever necessary and feasible within their respective systems for potable water, and infiltration into sewer and solid waste systems, is taking place and then report to Council on ways the City can work with federal and state partners to ensure safe drinking water for all Angelenos.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (LADWP) be INSTRUCTED to report on the presence of Polyfluoroalkyl / Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other similar contaminants identified by EPA, and the PFAS Roadmap Action Plan, and provide information on testing and actions that the LADWP is undertaking to continue to ensure safe potable drinking water for the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) be INSTRUCTED to report with recommendations to ensure that LASAN can detect and treat Polyfluoroalkyl / Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other similar contaminants identified by the EPA in the water it has treated; the PFAS Roadmap Action Plan, including stormwater / rainwater capture systems; and how the ONE Water plan is affected by PFAS and other contaminants.

I FURTHER MOVE that LADWP and the City Attorney be INSTRUCTED to ensure that Angelenos are represented in any legal action that results from the contamination of drinking water intended for Los Angeles.

Introduced by:


Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District

Seconded By:




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