State Water Resources Control Board

TO: Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., Director
Office of Environmental Health Haz

FROM: Darrin Polhemus, P.E.
Deputy Director
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

DATE: February 6, 2020

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS ON DETECTED PFAS ANALYTES

In early 2019, the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued orders to specific public water systems near airports, landfills, and previous findings of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to monitor for further PFAS contamination. This order included monitoring for all the analytes that can be detected by method 537 rev. 1.1 and method 537.1.

DDW has now received monitoring data for two rounds of sampling. A review of this data reveals that nine different PFAS materials have been detected at multiple locations within California drinking water sources. For two of those materials, perfluorooctyl sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic (PFOA) acid, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has made recommendations to DDW regarding establishment of notification levels. Based on the number of detections, DDW is hereby requesting that OEHHA complete a review of available health information and make recommendation as to possible notification levels for the following compounds:

- perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)
- perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)
- perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)
- perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
- perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)
- 4,8-dioxia-3H-perflourononanoic acid (ADONA)

The State Water Board also requests that OEHHA include consideration of whether some of the PFAS materials should be grouped together when being considered in a regulatory manner and if it is possible to consider them in subclasses based on specific characteristics or features of the materials.

As additional PFAS data become available, DDW may modify this request to include additional per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances for consideration for development of notification levels.