

July, 2016



Dear Security Water Customer:

You have likely read information in the news media about the Environmental Protection Agency's recently revised health advisory levels for chemicals known as Perfluoroalkyl substances or PFASs. PFASs are commonly found in firefighting foams, Teflon™ products, carpet, clothing and food packaging. They were recently measured in our groundwater.

We understand this news may be of concern to our customers and **we want to assure you we are doing everything we can to minimize our customer's exposure to PFASs via drinking water.** Unfortunately, some of the information reported by the news media is inaccurate or misleading. Therefore, we want to make sure you have the facts. Please read the fact sheet we mailed with the June water bill – view it at www.securitywsd.com. Here is a recap of important facts for you to know:

- ✓ These chemicals were measured in the groundwater not surface water. We have historically used about 50 percent groundwater and 50 percent surface water for our water supply. Now we are using mostly surface water from Pueblo Reservoir to supply your water. The only time we need to use groundwater is in the summer when water demand is high. **That is why we are asking you to please conserve water.** See enclosed card explaining voluntary restrictions and tips.
- ✓ **About two-thirds of our customers' water (customers in zones 2 and 3) is most likely not affected by these chemicals since all or the majority of their water comes from surface water.**
- ✓ **The one service area that may be affected is zone 1.** While we are also using surface water to supply those customers, during the summer months when water use is very high, we cannot get enough surface water to this zone to meet customers' needs. Therefore, we must also use some groundwater and as a result, some water in zone 1 may contain levels of these chemicals above the EPA health advisory level.
- ✓ **Just because someone is exposed to a contaminant that exceeds the health advisory level, does not mean they will have adverse health effects.** Health advisory levels offer a margin of protection to sensitive populations, which in this case are primarily women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, women who are breastfeeding, and infants. We encourage you to talk about any specific health concerns with your health provider.
- ✓ We are installing some new pipes this summer that will help us further reduce groundwater use in zone 1 and looking at other ways to eliminate use of groundwater for the short-term until a long-term solution is implemented.

El Paso County Health Department, Security Water District and others are hosting a public meeting to explain the issue and answer questions. We encourage you to attend if you would like to learn more.

**Mesa Ridge High School 6070 Mesa Ridge Pkwy, Colorado Springs, CO 80911
Thursday, July 7, 2016, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

We appreciate your patience as we work through these issues.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Heald
General Manager