



April 25, 2022

### **Statement Regarding Recent News Media Stories and PFAS**

The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District (District) is aware of recent news media reporting on a study released by the Earthjustice organization concerning the Suncor refinery and PFAS contamination of Sand Creek and the South Platte River. The District appreciates the media and Earthjustice's attention to the evolving challenge of PFAS faced by the District and other municipal water providers in Colorado and nation-wide.

The District would like to clarify, though, that contrary to what is suggested by a related press release entitled "*Study Reveals Suncor PFAS Pollution in Surface Water and Municipal Drinking Water Systems*" and follow-up stories in the media, the District's drinking water supply system does not use surface waters from Sand Creek or the South Platte River. The District does not believe its drinking water is impacted by the Suncor site.

The District discovered PFAS in 2018 when, on its own initiative, it tested its drinking water supply sources for the chemicals. Once PFAS were detected, the District took immediate steps and continues to take steps to manage its water supply, including shutting down certain supply wells and treating its raw drinking water supplies for PFAS. There are currently no federal or Colorado maximum limits for PFAS in drinking water; however, the EPA has set a Health Advisory Level ("HAL") for two types of PFAS (PFOA and PFOS). That HAL is currently set at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). At no time has the District's treated drinking water tested above the HAL.

Though the District has been monitoring and treating for PFAS since 2018, the regulatory response around PFAS is rapidly evolving at the federal and state level. The District is closely monitoring these developments and expects that a maximum contaminant level may be proposed later this year and that a new, lower HAL may be issued. The District has been taking steps to prepare for this possibility. We are designing additional treatment facilities and will be requesting funds under the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in order to enhance our PFAS treatment capabilities. The District has also sued manufacturers of PFAS to obtain compensation for its costs. The District will do everything possible to eliminate or minimize what could otherwise be a significant cost to its customers.

For more information about PFAS and the District's actions to address this problem, please see <https://www.sacwsd.org/249/Perfluorinated-Compounds-Detected>.

If you have questions about PFAS and your health, we suggest you speak with your physician or visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's online materials at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health>.