

**Senate Bill 1313**  
**PFAS Free Water**  
Senator Jerry McNerney (SD 5)

**THIS BILL**

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PFAS are toxic substances used in thousands of commercial products. They are also known as “forever chemicals,” and have been found in water systems serving [at least 25.4 million](#) Californians. In 2024, the U.S. EPA established minimum safety standards for certain PFAS in drinking water. Removing PFAS from a water system is costly, and likely to be borne by ratepayers through higher water rates.

SB 1313 would help public water systems remove PFAS from drinking water and prevent water rate increases by making PFAS-related projects eligible to receive more state funding.

**ISSUE**

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Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS or forever chemicals, are used in everyday products such as nonstick cookware, fabrics, cleaning supplies, and more. The widespread use of PFAS since the 1940s and the difficulty in cleaning up the chemicals makes removing them from the water systems extremely costly.

In 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new regulations relating to six different PFAS commonly found in drinking water. These regulations set enforceable federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for public health, require public water systems to monitor PFAS contamination, and require public water systems with contamination levels above the healthy level to implement PFAS reduction efforts. While the EPA anticipates the annual cost of this mandate

to be approximately \$1.5 billion nationwide, this is believed to be a significant underestimation. Other estimates project costs to be nearly \$40 billion in capital investments with additional annual operating costs of \$2.7 billion to \$3.5 billion. Without alternative funding sources, local water agencies will be forced to cover these cleanup costs, which will likely be passed on to ratepayers through higher water rates.

In California, there is a State Revolving Fund (SRF) for water quality and drinking water; [Safe Drinking Water SRF](#). This SRF helps public water systems finance the cost of water projects and ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for all Californians. However, despite PFAS being a pervasive contaminant in water systems across the state, PFAS-related projects are not explicitly eligible to receive financial assistance through Safe Drinking Water SRF.

**SOLUTION**

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SB 1313 would clarify that PFAS clean-up projects are eligible to receive financial assistance through the Safe Drinking Water SRF.

**SUPPORT**

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League of California Cities (Sponsor)  
City of Buena Park  
City of Lakewood  
City of Pico Rivera  
City of Sacramento  
City of Ventura

**CONTACT**

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