SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. VI-B**

FROM: Ed Fortner, General Manager

Meeting Date: **July 2, 2019**

Subject: PFAAs (PFOS and PFOA) Contaminants Discussion

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report from the General Manager. Discussion and possible action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

DISCUSSION:

At the June 6, 2019 Board Meeting President Tim Lipinski brought up PAAs, or Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanioc Acid (PFOA) as contaminants that were getting press coverage and suggested a discussion item be put on the July 2nd Board agenda. These contaminants are manmade chemicals not naturally found in the environment. The chemicals are used in firefighting foams and carpet and clothing treatments. The production and use of these chemicals have been phased out in the U.S. At present, EPA has not issued an MCL for drinking water. EPA has issued a health advisory guideline limit. These chemicals were sampled in the latest round of UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation) sampling, but SSWD was not part of that required sampling. Several Sonoma County water utilities did sample and did not get any detections. California (SWRCB) adopted EPA Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 ng/L as California Response Level (RL) and Notification levels (NL) of 14ng/L for PFOA and 13 ng/L for PFOS. Cost for analysis of these chemicals is $3,000 to sample all five wells. Treatment options if there are detections include activated carbon filtration and Reverse Osmosis which are very expensive treatment technologies. Depending on the level of contamination, the recommendation could be abandonment of wells.

There is pending legislation, AB 841 that requires the SWRCB to update the legislature on a required work plan to assess which PAAs should be identified as a potential risk to human health. January 1, 2022 is the deadline for SWRCB to provide the Legislature an update on the assessment. SWRCB has implemented an eighteen-month phased initiative to determine extent of any contamination and is in phase one that includes questionnaires of all airports and military installations requiring workplans. Phase two requires further monitoring at refineries, fire training areas, and 2017-2018 urban wildfire areas. Phase three will include monitoring at manufacturing sites, wastewater plants, and domestic wells. At this time, given the current data, I recommend SSWD not undertake sampling of this unregulated contaminant.