



April 19, 2024

The Honorable Diane Papan
State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2515 (Papan): Menstrual products. perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Papan:

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support position on your Assembly Bill (AB) 2515, which would prohibit the sale of feminine hygiene products containing PFAS in California.

MARK STAPP
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ

VICTORIA FLEMING

DIANNA MACDONALD

JEFF OKREPKIE

CHRIS ROGERS

The City of Santa Rosa Water Department operates a Regional Water Reuse System that serves approximately 230,000 residents in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and unincorporated portions of Sonoma County. The hub of the Water Reuse System is the Laguna Treatment Plant, which cleans and recycles approximately 7 billion gallons of wastewater each year from homes, businesses, and industry in the region. During dry to normal years nearly 100% of our tertiary recycled water is beneficially reused for agricultural and urban irrigation, as well as to recharge the Geysers steamfields to produce clean and renewable energy.

In recent years, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have become a topic of public concern due to their high mobility and resistance to breaking down naturally in the environment, as well as the persistent detection of PFAS compounds in people's bodies. In 2021 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced and began implementation of the "PFAS Strategic Roadmap" which outlines a whole-agency approach to addressing PFAS. One of the three central directives of the roadmap is to pursue a comprehensive approach to "proactively prevent PFAS from entering air, land, and water at levels that can adversely impact human health and the environment." On April 10, 2024, EPA, through a landmark ruling, set drinking water standards for six PFAS chemicals. Under this rule, drinking water systems will be required to conduct quarterly testing for PFAS and make infrastructure improvements for treatment if there is a PFAS detection of 4 parts per trillion or greater.

Consistent with EPA action and guidance, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) issued a statewide monitoring and reporting order in 2020 that required wastewater agencies to monitor and report for PFAS in influent, effluent and biosolids.



Preliminary data from the Water Board demonstrates that domestic inputs represent a significant source of PFAS entering wastewater systems, meaning that products people use in their homes and businesses are contributing a large portion of the PFAS that ends up in the wastewater system. This represents a source that is not controllable through local pretreatment and enforcement programs, which focus on industrial sources. For this reason, a statewide and product-focused approach is necessary to remove PFAS from feminine hygiene products. Similar bans on PFAS in other types of products associated with a direct nexus to wastewater and drinking water have already been enacted for textiles, cosmetics, cookware, and food packaging.

PFAS chemicals are both ubiquitous and indestructible. In some cases, PFAS can be removed from water and wastewater at the end of the cycle through advanced treatment technology. However, there is no technologically feasible method for the large-scale destruction of PFAS compounds. Instead, once removed, PFAS residuals are merely displaced to another waste stream and typically cycle back through the waste management process. For these reasons, source control and pollution prevention strategies such as the one presented in AB 2515 are the most cost effective and meaningful approaches to managing PFAS pollution in the environment.

NATALIE ROGERS
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The City of Santa Rosa strongly supports AB 2515. Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 849-5536.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers
Mayor