STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

MEETING DATE: February 12, 2014

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *February 2014*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2014 **WEBSITE:** http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/

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Urban Creeks Pesticide Toxicity TMDL Implementation (Jan O'Hara)

A key implementation action in our Urban Creeks Pesticide Toxicity TMDL entails tracking U.S. EPA pesticide registration activities as they relate to surface water quality and sharing monitoring data and research with U.S. EPA. The goal is to improve U.S. EPA's evaluation of water quality impacts during the pesticide registration process and avoid water quality problems from newly-registered pesticides. We last reported in 2011 that U.S. EPA has made progress towards this goal, although the need to closely track and comment on registrations of urban-use pesticides remains. Since then, Board staff has submitted formal comments on 25 different pesticide registration actions. In addition, wastewater dischargers and municipal stormwater agencies have submitted comments through their statewide coalitions.

We recently learned of another successful outcome. In direct response to comments from California stormwater agencies, Board staff (from both this and the Central Valley region), and U.S. EPA Pacific Division staff, U.S. EPA made major improvements in its evaluation process for a new insecticide, indoxacarb, that is highly toxic in aquatic environments. Originally, U.S. EPA planned to evaluate only the agricultural, not the urban, uses of indoxacarb. We provided information showing the likelihood that indoxacarb would be used for ant control in urban areas. Pesticides used for ant control can readily wash off paved surfaces into our urban creeks and cause toxicity. We confirmed this with diazinon and chlorpyifos, which are no longer used for this purpose, and with pyrethroids, which remain in use. We will continue our efforts to ensure that U.S. EPA fully considers urban runoff pathways in its pesticide registration actions,

and we are pleased to see improvements in the process.

Clipper Cove Skeet Range Cleanup at Treasure Island (Myriam Zech)

Dredging to remove lead shot and clay pigeon debris from the former Clipper Cove Skeet Range is complete. The Clipper Cove Skeet Range, also known as *Site 27*, consists of approximately 19 acres, located offshore between Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island (Figures 1a and 1b). The Treasure Island Marina currently occupies a small portion of Clipper Cove (Cove) and will remain the principal use for the Cove along with boat traffic to and from the marina.

Figure 1a. *Treasure Island - Yerba Buena Island Location Map.*

Figure 1b. *Projected Shot "Fall Zone" at Site 27.*

Up until 1989, naval personnel would fire lead shot at clay pigeon targets launched over water at this location. As a result, lead shot was found in shallow sediment within a swath extending several hundred feet from the shoreline, where it presented a potential hazard to diving ducks via incidental ingestion. Between August and September 2013, the Navy's contractor dredged approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sediment from the upper two feet of the Cove's subsurface (Figures 1a and 1b). The dredged area was subsequently backfilled with crushed rock and sand to keep diving ducks from accessing residual lead shot and to armor the area from erosive boat propellers. Details about the Record of Decision that I signed in 2012 for this cleanup are presented in the May 2012 Executive Officer's Report.

The dredged sediment was barged to existing dewatering pads, located at the former Alameda Naval Air Station's Seaplane Lagoon that were constructed to handle dredge sediment from cleanup of the lagoon that occurred in 2012. After a couple months of drying, the sediments were profiled to determine disposal/reuse options. The Navy (and regulatory agencies) had hoped that much of the sediment could be reused to cover and close one of the two landfills at the former Alameda Naval Air Station. Based on preliminary data, it appears that this will be the case. However, due to elevated levels of lead, a small portion of the material will need to be

disposed elsewhere; the Navy is currently reviewing its options.

Photo 1a. *Dredging at Clipper Cove. East span of the Bay Bridge and Yerba Buena Island are seen in the background. Photo taken September 17, 2013.*

Photo 1b. *Water Board staff Myriam Zech prepares to inspect the underwater silt curtain at Clipper Cove.*

In the future, Clipper Cove will require institutional controls to minimize sediment-disturbing activities that could expose any residual lead shot currently buried at the site, such as restrictions on vessel speed, protocols for future dredging, and long-term monitoring of the backfill.

This multi-faceted cleanup project will help pave the way for eventual transfer of former Navy properties at Treasure Island to the City of San Francisco. It is also the result of effective collaboration and teamwork among two different base closure teams of the Navy and numerous regulatory agency personnel for Alameda Point and Treasure Island.

Cleanup at Presidio Nearing Completion (Agnes Farres)

Almost 20 years after the military base at the Presidio of San Francisco was closed and transferred to the National Park Service, cleanup at the Presidio is nearing completion. For over 150 years, the Presidio served as a military mobilization and departure point for overseas conflicts, a medical debarkation center, and a coastal defense station. The Presidio also contains former landfills used by the Army for disposal of fill soils and construction debris and industrial areas used to maintain and repair vehicles and aircraft.

In 1994, the Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service and became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In 1996, Congress established the Presidio Trust, a federal government corporation responsible for managing the inland areas of the Presidio and converting it to a financially self-sufficient national park site.

In 2003, the Board adopted Site Cleanup Requirements (Order No. R2-2003-0080) for five large petroleum-contaminated sites at the Presidio, including 575 tanks and 66 pipelines. Since 2008, Board staff has issued over 40 case closures, requiring hundreds of hours of staff time. The Presidio Trust anticipates completing the remaining cleanup work over the next few months and we anticipate preparing a rescission order for the Board's consideration this year.

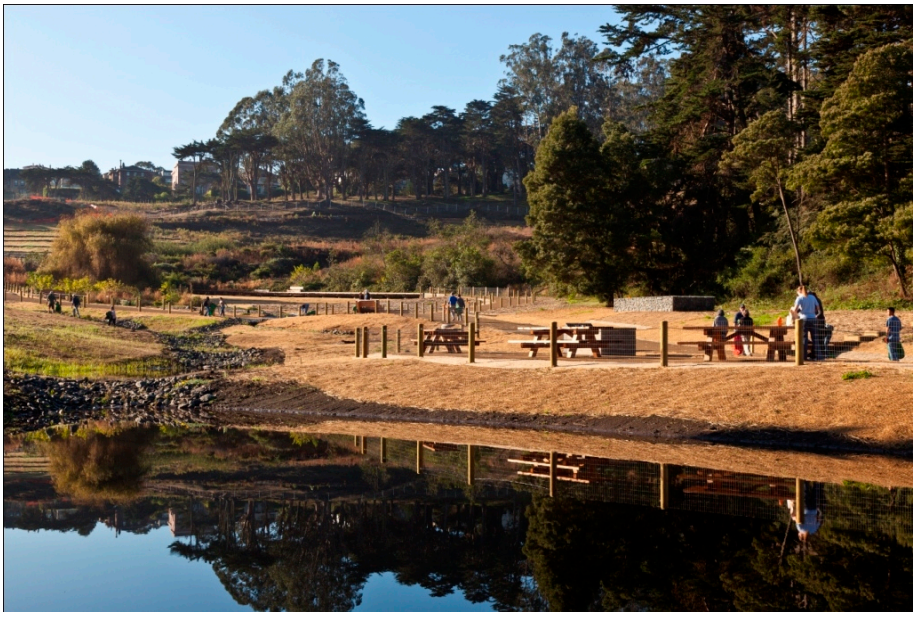

Photo 2. *El Polin Springs, located at the heart of the Tennessee Hollow watershed, where cleanup of two former landfills (in the background) culminated in daylighting a creek, restoring native habitat, and building new trails.*

Environmental restoration work will continue at the Presidio for some time to come. For example, in addition to the restoration of the Crissy Field Marsh in 2000 and daylighting Thompson Reach in 2005 (both of which were former remediation sites), the Presidio Trust plans to continue work in the Tennessee Hollow watershed, including further creek daylighting and restoring a previously contaminated site to tidal marsh (Quartermaster Reach) that will connect to the Crissy Field Marsh (Photo 2 and Figure 2). We will continue to be involved with these restoration projects under a separate cost recovery agreement with the Presidio Trust.

Figure 2. *The Tennessee Hollow watershed at the Presidio, including El Polin Springs, Thompson Reach, and the future Quartermaster Reach, which will connect with the Crissy Field Marsh.*

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Parcel E Record of Decision (Tina Low)

Last month, I signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for Parcel E at the former Hunters Point

Naval Shipyard (Shipyard) (Figure 3a). The ROD memorializes the Navy's selected remedy to address contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment in shoreline areas. This is the seventh ROD I've signed for Shipyard parcels since 2008, addressing cleanup at nine of the eleven parcels at the former shipyard that will help pave the way for eventual redevelopment by the City of San Francisco.

The Shipyard consists of 866 acres total, about half of which extend Bay-ward to include nearshore sediment areas. Historically, the Shipyard was used by the Navy for shipbuilding, repair, and maintenance activities. After World War II, activities shifted to submarine maintenance and repair. During this time the Shipyard was also the site of the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. In 1974, the Shipyard was deactivated and later leased to a private ship repair company. In 1989, it was placed on the federal National Priorities List and divided into parcels to facilitate cleanup and planned transfer to the City of San Francisco.

Parcel E, which is located in the southwestern portion of the Shipyard, includes 128 acres and contains 17 existing buildings, 25 former buildings, and 1 ship berth. It was used primarily as an industrial support area. Notable cleanup areas include the former Building 406 warehouse, where chlorinated solvents were spilled, and two oily waste reclamation ponds constructed 30 feet inland from the shoreline (Figure 3b). The areas near the shoreline are planned for open space and recreational use, while the more inland areas are planned for mixed use development.

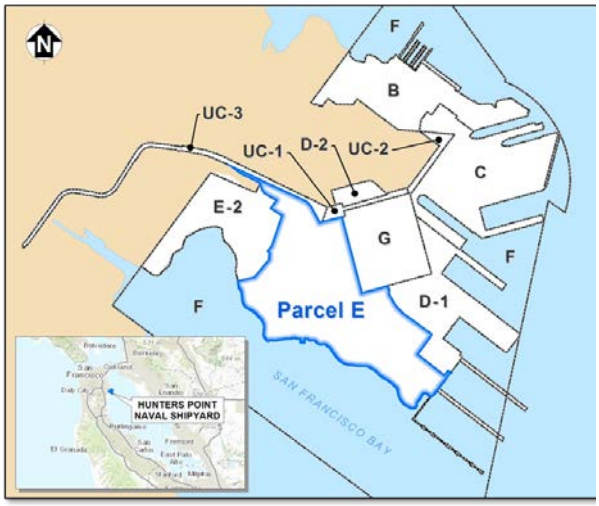

Figure 3a. *Shipyard Location and Parcel Map.*

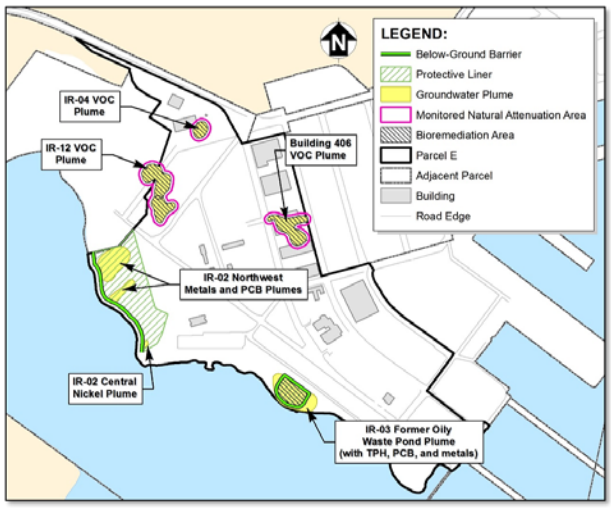

Figure 3b. *Parcel E Groundwater Remediation Areas.*

As shown on Figure 3b, Parcel E-2 (which contains the Shipyard's former landfill) is adjacent to Parcel E. In December 2012, I signed the ROD for Parcel E-2 (December 2012 Executive Officer's Report), where 1.5 acres of seasonal wetlands and 3.2 acres of tidal wetlands will be created or restored to offset wetland losses elsewhere on the Shipyard due to cleanup actions. As we reported last September (September 2013 Executive Officer's Report), there was an oily seep along the shoreline of Parcel E-2 that was abated via interim measures. That seep will be fully addressed by the cleanup actions described in both RODs.

The selected remedy to clean up the Shipyard consists of: 1) excavation of contaminant hot spots; 2) treatment; 3) containment; and 4) monitoring, maintenance, and institutional controls

to ensure effectiveness and prevent future exposure. Specifically, the remedy includes excavation or treatment of contaminated soil, treatment of contaminated soil gas and groundwater, removal or treatment of the former oily waste ponds, and installation of below-ground barriers to minimize contaminants entering the Bay. Rock revetment will also be installed in some locations to protect the shoreline from erosion.

The next step is for the Navy to submit its remedial design, which will present detailed technical specifications for construction, implementation, and monitoring of the selected remedy. The Navy plans to submit the remedial design in late 2014 for remedy implementation in 2015.

United Molasses Site Cleaned Up (Alyx Karpowicz)

The former United Molasses site is located in Richmond on the eastern shoreline of the Bay. The site is owned by the Port of Richmond. The site was originally developed by Dorward Terminals in 1917, and United Molasses, and its predecessors, operated at the site from 1936 to 1993. The site was used for the production and warehousing of molasses and other agricultural products such as coconut oil, lignin liquor, linseed oil, tallow, and various types of molasses.

In July 2001, an oil seep was observed at minus tide on the beach adjacent to the site. An environmental investigation identified degraded heavy hydrocarbon fuel within and just above the saturated groundwater zone. Linear alkylbenzenes were also present in shallow groundwater; however, investigations demonstrated that these were from the adjacent, upgradient Vopak facility. In 2007, the Board adopted Site Cleanup Requirements for the site, which named United Molasses, Vopak, and the Port of Richmond as dischargers.

In 2012, staff approved a Remedial Action Plan for the oil seep that proposed excavation of impacted, saturated soil to cleanup standards below the commercial/industrial environmental screening levels in order to eliminate potential exposure pathways from onsite sources to the adjoining beach and Bay waters.

Preparation for the cleanup effort began at the end of June 2013 with clearing of surface vegetation, including a stand of invasive eucalyptus trees near the center of the site and palm trees near a remaining building. Other actions included razing the building, removing an interceptor trench and associated equipment that was installed in July 2009 to capture some of pollutants in groundwater upgradient of the oil see, and decommissioning the groundwater monitoring well network (Photo 4a).

From July to December 2013, an area of approximately 51,200 square feet was excavated. Excavation targeted an impacted soil zone approximately 8 feet below ground surface (bgs) to 12 feet bgs. Excavation depths averaged approximately 14 feet bgs across the area but reached 17 feet bgs in limited areas that were most heavily impacted. The total volume of soil excavated was approximately 22,500 cubic yards (cy) of which 12,700 cy was hauled away and disposed offsite. The balance was determined to be clean and was placed back in the pit after remediation was complete. Clean fill was also imported to bring the area back up to original grade (Photo 4b).

The cleanup also included an area around an underground storage tank (UST) located near the Boiler House, which was designated by the City of Richmond as a Historic Structure that must be protected in place. Thus, to prevent damage to the Boiler House, this UST was closed in place rather than removed. The UST was pumped out, steam-cleaned, and then filled with a concrete slurry mix. Additional concrete slurry was poured around the outside of the tank to entomb any residual contamination adjacent to, or beneath, the UST.

The overall site restoration also included saturating the backfilled pit with a bacteria and nutrient solution to enhance natural biodegradation of any residual hydrocarbon left in place, along with compaction, grading, reseeding, and reinstallation of utilities lines that were removed during excavation (Photo 4c). New groundwater monitoring wells will be installed to replace wells that had to be removed to facilitate the excavation. The effectiveness of the remediation will be evaluated by groundwater monitoring and quarterly beach inspections to ensure that migration of hydrocarbons to the beach area has been eliminated.

Photo 4a. *Before, looking to the southeast.*

Photo 4b. *After, looking to the southeast.*

Photo 4c. *Shoreline Area just after cleanup.*

Petroleum Tank Removals, Pennzoil-Quaker State Facility (Alyx Karpowicz)

In October 2013, we approved a workplan submitted by the Shell Oil Company, doing business as Pennzoil-Quaker State Company (Pennzoil), to remove 36 aboveground petroleum storage tanks (ASTs) and associated piping and infrastructure from its product distribution facility

located at 2015 Grand Street in Alameda. Pennzoil uses the Alameda facility for distribution of packaged and bulk lubricant products. The facility consists of a bulk petroleum storage tank farm, a truck loading/unloading area, multiple adjoining warehouses and structures, and administrative offices. The facility is regulated by the Board under Site Cleanup Requirements adopted in 1998. The facility is now surrounded by single-family homes, as this part of Alameda has evolved over the years from industrial to primarily residential. Of the 48 ASTs that were located in the tank farm prior to this removal action, only 12 were still in service, as the 36 had been unused for several years.

In mid-October, after receiving our concurrence, Pennzoil issued a fact sheet to its neighbors detailing the planned tank demolition and removal. Due to the facility's location in a residential neighborhood, great care and consideration had to be taken to minimize nuisance impacts to residents. Between the end of October and the middle of December, 37 tanks of various sizes were removed, including the 36 empty ASTs and one additional tank that was removed for logistical purposes due to its location within the tank farm.

While there was minor surface staining observed below some of the ASTs upon removal, none of the staining extended below the top few inches of soil. As such, further cleanup measures were not needed, and the facility will continue operations and groundwater monitoring for the foreseeable future. Removal of the ASTs and associated infrastructure greatly improved visual aesthetics, as well as the functionality and ease of maneuverability within the tank farm. Pennzoil received positive feedback from all agencies involved (fire department, City of Alameda, etc.) and most neighbors within the surrounding community.

In-house Training

Our January training was on water reuse, which encompasses wastewater recycling (e.g., using highly treated wastewater for landscape irrigation), as well as other forms of reuse (e.g., recharging stormwater runoff to groundwater). It was timely, given the Governor's Drought Emergency proclamation the day before. Our February training will be on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and how it affects our regulatory programs. Brownbag seminars included a January 29 webinar on a new in-place cleanup technology, "Electron Acceptor Selection for Enhanced Bio-Remediation of Non-Chlorinated Hydrocarbons."

Staff Presentations

On January 15, Stephen Hill, Chuck Headlee, Uta Hellmann-Blumberg, and John Wolfenden presented a regulatory update to the Bay Area branch of the Groundwater Resources Association (GRA).

Stephen discussed the funding outlook for the Water Boards' cleanup programs and our evolving regulatory strategy for dry cleaner spill sites. Chuck gave a UST Program update, including a discussion of how to bring this legacy program to a close with a "soft landing." Uta spoke about the recent update to the Board's Environmental Screening Levels and gave some examples of their proper use. Lastly, John discussed the migration of solvent vapors from the subsurface into occupied buildings. He talked about U.S.EPA's recent guidance on vapor intrusion and how it may or may not change our approach to vapor intrusion investigations.

The audience of over 175 included environmental cleanup consultants, environmental attorneys, vendors, and dischargers. Our staff has been making this annual presentation for 20 years. This meeting continues to be the best attended meeting for this GRA branch annually and provides a useful forum for staff to interact with the regulated community.

On January 30, a number of Board staff attended and participated in the annual meeting of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies. I gave a presentation discussing Board priorities and stressing the need for wastewater agencies to begin evaluating their infrastructure needs in light of such evolving issues as nutrient discharge controls, climate change/sea level rise, emerging contaminant controls, and water sustainability. Naomi Feger and Lila Tang each gave presentations focusing on our regulatory approach to addressing nutrients in the Bay.

Penalty Enforcement Actions Proposed and Final (Lila Tang)

The following tables show proposed and final actions for imposition of penalties as of last month's report. Proposed actions are available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

Proposed Settlements

The following are noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comments are received by the comment deadline, the Executive Officer will sign an order implementing the settlement.

Discharger	Violation	Penalty Proposed	Comment Deadline
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Transmission System	Discharge limit exceedances	$69,000	February 7, 2014
TRC Companies, Inc., in San Jose	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	February 7, 2014
Chevron USA, Richmond Refinery, in Richmond	Discharge limit exceedances	$3,000	February 18, 2014
Phillips 66, San Francisco Refinery, in Rodeo	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	February 28, 2014

Final Actions

On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following:

Discharger	Violation	Penalty Imposed	Supplemental Environmental Project
USS Posco Industries, in Pittsburg	Discharge limit exceedances	$24,000	None
San Francisco Public Utility Commission, Water Transmission System and Sunol Water Treatment Plant, in San Mateo and Sunol	Unauthorized discharges to Alameda and San Mateo Creek, and discharge limit exceedances	$608,310	$277,892 for 2.5 acres of tidal marsh transition zone restoration at Eden Landing, Hayward
Hertz Corp., in Oakland	Unauthorized discharge of gasoline to land	$18,800	None
International Business Machines, In San Jose	Discharge limit exceedance and unauthorized discharge	$6,000	None

The State Board's Office of Enforcement includes a statewide summary of penalty enforcement in its Executive Director's Report, which can be found on the State Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/eo_rpts.shtml