STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

MEETING DATE: March 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: *March 2014*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

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

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Kirby Canyon Landfill Recognized for Conservation Efforts (Alyx Karpowicz)

Kirby Canyon Recycling and Disposal Facility (Kirby Canyon) is a Board-permitted Class III municipal waste disposal site, operated by Waste Management of California, Inc., and located in south San Jose in the Coyote Creek watershed. The landfill began operation in 1986. The landfill property encompasses approximately 827 acres, which includes the landfill and 600 acres devoted solely to habitat enhancement projects and scientific study. The area includes one of the Bay Area's few remaining serpentine soil grasslands and supports the federally-listed Bay checkerspot butterfly, the California red-legged frog, and a number of rare plants. The Kirby Canyon Landfill Conservation Trust oversees protection and restoration activities related to the conservation of these species. In 2013, Kirby Canyon received the Corporate Habitat of the Year award from the Wildlife Habitat Council for its conservation efforts. Kirby Canyon was selected from over 600 certified facilities in 46 states and 12 countries.

Kirby Canyon is one of 112 Waste Management properties certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council. Waste Management has set aside 27,000 acres across North America for wildlife habitats. Photo 1 depicts parts of the habitat conservation area.

Photo 1. *Kirby Canyon habitat conservation area.*

Oakland Estuary Cleanup (Habte Kifle and Mark Johnson)

U.S. EPA and CalRecycle's cleanup of the Oakland Estuary is almost finished, and there have been noticeable improvements to the Estuary since work started in September 2013. Many of the navigational hazards that once threatened vessel passage are now gone, and a significant amount of waste and degrading objects (some containing asbestos, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, creosote, and PCBs) have been removed. By February, there were only five derelict vessels and some remaining debris left to be cleaned up.

Here's a summary of what was accomplished with about $5 million: the Oakland Estuary cleanup project included the removal of 59 abandoned or unregistered vessels, both illegal "anchor outs" that have been a problem in the Estuary and sunken boats that were a navigational hazard and environmental threat. To remove the sunken vessels, sediment that accumulated in each vessel's hull had to be pumped into settling tanks to lighten and raise the boat. The amount of sediment generated from just two of the larger vessels, the "Respect" and "Captain Al" (Photo 2a), was about 1,700 cubic yards. Derelict vessels were hoisted onshore and dismantled, and scrap metal was recycled. Hazardous substances were taken to approved disposal facilities.

Photo 2a. *The "Captain Al," a 105-foot tugboat, being dismantled.*

(Source: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Cleanup/Projects/Estuary2013/Updates.htm).

The cleanup project also included removal of old piers and marine debris determined to be either a navigational hazard or shoreline blight. Approximately 355 tons of miscellaneous debris, 35 truck-loads of concrete waste, and 125 tons of creosote wood were taken out of the Estuary. (Photo 2b)

Photo 2b. *Removal of the dilapidated pier at Union Point Park, Oakland, across from Coast Guard Island.*

(Source: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Cleanup/Projects/Estuary2013/Updates.htm).

The cleanup project also triggered cleanup by responsible parties of sandblast and slag waste along the Estuary's shoreline, which resulted from historic operations at adjacent properties. These efforts were coordinated with removal of a collapsed wharf, wood piles, and debris. In addition, the bank of the property at 2241 Clement Avenue, Alameda, was reconstructed and stabilized with riprap (Photos 2c and 2d).

The success of the cleanup project can be attributed to the vision of federal, State, and local agency staff and their commitment to collaborating on this noteworthy effort.


Photos 2c and 2d. *A collapsed wharf, piers, and debris prior to cleanup (left) and the restored site (right) at 2241 Clement Avenue, Alameda*
(Source: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/ Cleanup/Projects/Estuary2013/Updates.htm).

Successful MTBE Remediation at Hamilton Air Force Base (George Leyva)

Since 1992, we have been directing the cleanup of a large methyl-tert-buyl-ether (MTBE) plume at the former Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato. The cleanup has been especially challenging due to its location beneath a large residential development. With MTBE concentrations in groundwater approaching drinking water standards, that cleanup process is about to come to an end as we consider rescinding both the site's land use controls and its site cleanup requirements (SCRs).

The MTBE plume emanates from former Naval Exchange and Navy Public Works Center gas stations. The stations' former underground storage tanks (USTs) and associated underground piping were excavated and removed in 1992. At that time, groundwater and soil samples confirmed a substantial gasoline release (with MTBE) that had contaminated groundwater between the site; MTBE concentrations were detected as high as 60,000 ug/L. Luckily, no domestic, irrigation, or agricultural wells were impacted by the fuel releases.

In 1998, the Navy installed and started operating an air-sparging and soil vapor extraction system to reduce the contaminant mass in areas with the highest petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations (near USTs 957/970, see Photo 3). Significant mass removal was achieved and the air-sparging and soil vapor extraction system was shut down in 1999, leaving MTBE as the remaining constituent of concern.

On July 19, 2000, the Board issued SCRs to the Navy to direct the continued cleanup of hydrocarbons and MTBE. This resulted in the Navy's installation of a source area remediation air injection treatment system located on former Navy property. The system provided additional oxygen to the subsurface that enhanced natural biodegradation of the petroleum constituents, including MTBE.

Photo 3. *Petroleum release source area, extent of MTBE plume, and residential development location.*

In 2003, a residential development was constructed above a portion of the plume. In order to accommodate the proposed residential land use, we required that the properties be subject to land use controls (LUCs), which were recorded on the property deeds of 25 of the homes. At that time, MTBE concentrations were evaluated, and we concluded that MTBE did not pose a threat to human health from potential vapor intrusion to indoor air. The LUCs restricted any digging at the home sites and did not allow the consumption of fruits or vegetables grown in their yards. The California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) assisted by acting as the covenantee for the LUCs.

Subsequent to the completion of the housing development, the source area remediation system was shut down in 2006. A second extraction system was installed down-gradient of the original source area in the core of the MTBE plume and operated from 2010 to 2011. As of late 2013, this system had successfully remediated MTBE in the vicinity of the homes to near the drinking water standard of 13 ug/L, with a maximum concentration of 67 ug/L.

As a result of the successful remediation and the significant reduction of MTBE in groundwater beneath the homes, Board and DTSC staff have concurred with the homeowners' request to remove the LUCs from the 25 homes that were previously impacted by the MTBE plume. Staff will recommend the rescission of Board the SCRs when two years of confirmatory monitoring demonstrate that the MTBE remediation has been successful.

In-house Training

Our February training was on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and included a morning overview and an afternoon session that focused on mitigated negative declarations, a particular CEQA document we sometimes have to prepare. Our March training will be on climate change and how it affects our regulatory programs. Brownbag seminars include a March 4 webinar on "Responsible Party Searches" that refers to the process of identifying dischargers such as past owners and operators at sites with soil and groundwater contamination and a March 10 talk by U.C. Professor David Sedlak on his recently released book, Water 4.0: The Past, Present, and Future of the World's Most Vital Resource.

Staff Presentations

On February 5, Alec Naugle gave a presentation to the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) recycled water committee on the topic of salt and nutrient groundwater management plans (SNMPs). BACWA members include the municipalities and special districts that provide sanitary sewer services, wastewater treatment, and recycled water in the Bay Area. His talk focused on SNMP requirements outlined in the State Board's 2009 Recycled Water Policy. He also discussed the status of SNMPs being developed for three groundwater basins within our region (Sonoma, Livermore, and Santa Clara Valleys). This included key technical and policy challenges, as we consider updating our Basin Plan to include these plans. Expectedly, committee members were very interested to know the implications of SNMP development on future recycled water projects. We currently have an effective streamlined process for reviewing and approving such projects under the Board's 1996 General Water Reuse Requirements Order, and we do not expect that to change. However, because SNMPs provide baseline groundwater conditions, it can help us better evaluate the potential effects of projects, such as new/expanded wastewater systems, enhanced recharge, and recycled water, on long-term salt and nutrient conditions in a groundwater basin.

On February 12, Ross Steenson gave a presentation to the Navy on how we intend to apply the State Board's Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy (August 2012) to petroleum site cleanups at military facilities. Ross focused on key policy assumptions that are slightly different from the closure approach agreed to for military facilities some years ago. The presentation was very well received and the Navy thanked him for reaching out to proactively develop a workable path forward.

On February 18, Vic Pal spoke at the City of Brisbane's Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) quarterly meeting. The CAG was set up to provide public input to the City with regards to the planned developments at the Brisbane Landfill and the adjacent Baylands Brownfield site.
The landfill no longer accepts waste and will be formally closed once an approved development plan is in place. The Baylands site has a small VOC plume that is being remediated and an area of Bunker C oil that will require remediation prior to development. Vic's talk focused on explaining the sites' current environmental conditions and the regulatory status at the Landfill and the portion of the Baylands site needing remediation.

On February 27, I spoke as part of a panel of State agency representatives at a public hearing held by the Legislature's Select Committee on Agriculture and the Environment and hosted by Committee Chair Assemblyman Marc Levine at Petaluma City Hall. Assemblyman Levine has introduced Assembly Bill 2071, which would allow tertiary treated recycled water to be used for pasture animal watering. I described how the Regional Water Boards permit recycled water use, the recycled water uses our region's 1996 General Water Reuse Requirements Order allow, and how, if approved, recycled water use for pasture animal watering would be regulated by the Regional Water Boards. I also noted that, in response to the drought, the State Water Board is preparing a statewide general water reuse requirements order modeled after our 1996 order.

Penalty Enforcement Actions Proposed and Final (Lila Tang)

The following table shows proposed and final actions to impose penalties since last month's report. Proposed actions are available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

Proposed Settlements
The following were 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
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., in Sunnyvale	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	March 24, 2014

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

Discharger	Violation	Penalty Imposed	Supplemental Environmental Project
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Transmission System	Discharge limit exceedances	$69,000	None
TRC Companies, Inc., in San Jose	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	None
Chevron USA, Richmond Refinery, in Richmond	Discharge limit exceedances	$3,000	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