

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2014

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *December 2014*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: December 10, 2014 **WEBSITE:** <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

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Leona Heights Sulfur Mine Cleanup Update (Lindsay Whalin)

The parties responsible for restoration of the Leona Heights Sulfur Mine in Oakland are currently out of compliance with two orders adopted by the Board in 2013 (an amended Cleanup and Abatement Order and a Time Schedule Order). The parties have missed the September 30 deadline for completion of restoration construction, but as noted below, Board staff is not recommending enforcement at this time.

The primary reason for the missed deadline is that construction did not begin until late June, approximately two months later than anticipated, due to delays in obtaining the necessary work permits. In September, I amended the site's water quality certification to extend the work window to November 30. However, several rain delays during November caused that date to be missed as well. The project is still slated for completion in December, pending weather.

Based on communications from the parties and bi-weekly staff inspections, Board staff is convinced that the parties have taken all possible steps to complete the work as safely and quickly as possible. Furthermore, the work performed to date has already produced environmental benefits; for example, the pH of site runoff, even during rain events, is significantly improved over preconstruction conditions. For these reasons, staff is not currently recommending enforcement. Staff will continue to evaluate weather and field conditions, and work progress, and will provide an update at an upcoming Board Meeting after site construction is complete or a decision is made to postpone further work until dry conditions return in 2015.

An aerial video taken during a drone flyover in October shows progress and can be viewed at <https://e2c.synctool.com/shares/folder/6da4d8a180f258/>.

Redwood Landfill Upgrades (Vic Pal)

The operators of the Redwood Landfill north of Novato have completed several significant upgrade tasks since the Board's adoption of updated Waste Discharge Requirements for the Landfill in July 2009. These tasks were intended to allow the Landfill to withstand threats to waste containment associated with sea level rise and increases in storm intensities and to operate more efficiently by improving composting methods.

Landfill operators are incrementally raising the elevation of the Landfill's perimeter and exterior levees to ensure adequate flood protection and to maintain all levees so as to offset the combined effects of long-term settlement of the site's underlying Bay Mud and of sea level rise. In addition, Landfill operators upgraded and increased the capacity of the onsite leachate pond to accommodate increases in leachate extraction rates while still reserving capacity for holding direct rainfall during extreme wet-weather years.

A number of changes have been made to increase and improve composting operations. The existing compost pad was retrofitted to allow operation of a covered method of composting that yields a three-fold increase in composting throughput compared with previous methods. A new 4-acre lined surface impoundment was built to hold compost contact-water that is then reused in the composting operation. In addition, a 15.3-acre area was lined with compacted clay to serve as a curing and storage area for completed compost prior to its sale to customers.

Landfill operators also conducted a comprehensive site evaluation after the August 24 magnitude 6.0 Napa earthquake, located 14 miles east. Landfill facilities and environmental control systems performed well, and there was no evidence of earthquake damage.

Navy Plans for Treasure Island Land Transfer (Myriam Zech)

On October 30, the U.S. Navy issued its fourth Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island to the City of San Francisco. FOST 4, as it is known, includes 561 acres, of which 507 are submerged land around the islands, 8 non-contiguous parcels, and 4 contaminated sites that have been cleaned up and closed.

As background, FOSTs 1 and 2 were completed in 2006 and FOST 3 was completed in 2012. While the City of San Francisco has been leasing various properties from the Navy at Treasure Island for many years, FOST 4 is the first official transfer to the City.

There are three major contaminated sites at Treasure Island that still need to be cleaned up before they can be transferred. Site 12 is currently the only residential housing area on the island, which the Navy leases to the City and the City sublets. This area has been in the news due to concerns expressed by the residents regarding levels of radium-226 in the area's soils. Site 21 is a vessel waste oil recovery area where various solvents were used (and spilled) from a dip tank used to clean aircraft parts. Site 24 was the on-base dry cleaner where solvents were also used. The Navy is conducting in-situ bioremediation at the solvent sites.

These three sites, as well as the Clipper Cove skeet range near the Treasure Island marina, will likely be part of the next FOST in 2016. The sediment cleanup at Clipper Cove was discussed in the [February 2014 Executive Officer's Report](#). Actual land transfer is anticipated to occur gradually from 2015 through 2022. We are continuing to work with the Navy to expedite the closure of the remaining sites to facilitate transfer and eventual redevelopment by the City.

The City has adopted a development plan for Treasure and Yerba Buena islands for the construction of 8,000 new homes, up to 500 hotel rooms, retail and office space, 300 acres of recreation and open space, and the preservation of historic structures. Construction is currently scheduled to begin on Yerba Buena Island and the southwest corner of Treasure Island before the end of 2015. The full redevelopment of the islands will take more than a decade to complete. (Figure 1)

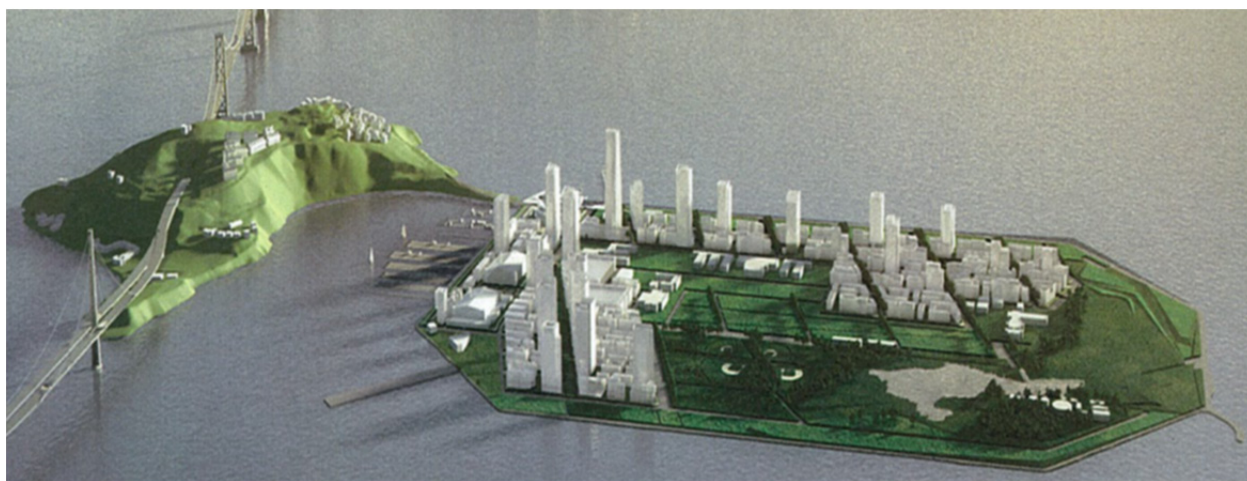


Figure 1. *Future Perspective of Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island Post-Development.*

Navy Transfers Alameda Point Naval Air Station (David Elias)

On November 3, a number of Board staff attended an event hosted by the Navy to celebrate the transfer of 624 acres at Alameda Point from the Navy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The plans for the 624 acres transferred include building an outpatient clinic, columbarium, and offices on 112 acres while the remaining 512 acres will remain undeveloped. The undeveloped area includes nesting sites for the endangered California least tern, as well as habitat frequented by over 180 bird species. The Board is one of the State agencies responsible for overseeing the ongoing cleanup of Alameda Point.

Napa River Restoration Project Completed (A.L. Riley)

On November 7, A.L. Riley represented the Board at an event celebrating the completion of the Napa River Restoration Project from Rutherford to Oakville. The Project, spearheaded by the landowner-based Rutherford Dust Society's Rutherford Dust Restoration Team, started in 2004 and restores 4.5 miles of Napa River. Project objectives established by the Restoration Team were to work collaboratively with neighbors and local, State, and federal agencies, including the Board, to stabilize river bank erosion and channel incision; reduce the impacts of flooding; protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; reduce Pierce's disease pressure on vineyards; and provide ongoing education about the river and its watershed. Board members who attended the vineyard field tour in January 2014 may recall that we viewed a section of the

Project adjacent to Cakebread Cellars.

The State along with U.S. EPA provided 25% of project costs, Napa County covered 41% with Measure A funds, and landowners contributed 34%. In addition to financial contributions, landowners voluntarily removed numerous rows of vines and set back existing berms to enhance the riparian zone along the river and allow the river to reconnect with its floodplain. To enhance in-stream habitat, large woody debris was strategically placed along the river (Figure 2). The Rutherford Dust Society's collaborative approach will be used as part of a new effort called the Oakville to Oak Knoll restoration project that involves restoring a 9.5 mile stretch of the river immediately downstream from the Rutherford to Oakville project.



Figure 2. As part of the restoration of the Rutherford Reach on the Napa River, large woody debris was successfully placed in the river to enhance in-stream habitat.

Prosperity Cleaners – Public Forum Followup (Ralph Lambert)

During the November Board Meeting's public forum, the Board heard from two Marinwood residents who were concerned about a lack of progress with site investigation and cleanup at the Prosperity Cleaners site in the Marinwood neighborhood, north of San Rafael. They specifically pointed to delays in offsite groundwater investigation and onsite cleanup since the Board's February 2014 adoption of a site cleanup order. We provided a short response at the meeting, noting that we shared the residents' frustration over delayed offsite investigation and that we administratively amended the site cleanup order in September to tighten up the deadline for completing that investigation. Below updates our response at the Board Meeting.

Regarding *site investigation*, the September order amendment appears to have had the desired effect in helping to resolve the offsite access dispute between the discharger (Marinwood Plaza LLC) and the offsite landowner (Silveira Ranches). The access agreement was finally signed by both sides on November 17. Offsite investigation work will start on December 11 and is expected to take about two weeks, although wet weather could result in delays if the soil becomes too soft to support a drill rig.

Regarding *site cleanup*, we find that the discharger is in compliance with the cleanup tasks in the site cleanup order. The order requires a submittal of cleanup plan no later than January 2016 and requires interim cleanup actions only if the Executive Officer finds that they are needed to protect human health or to prevent further contaminant migration. So far, we have not made these findings. Interim actions have resulted in removal of significant contamination in the site's two source areas and ongoing monitoring does not suggest an immediate threat to human health or of further contaminant migration. We will continue to update the Board.

In-house Training

Our November training was on "working with difficult people" with an outside instructor provided by the State Board's Training Academy. We learned about different difficult behaviors, what makes difficult people tick, and how best to respond to difficult behavior. We have no in-house training in December.

Staff Presentations

On November 21, Assistant Executive Officer Dyan Whyte was the guest speaker for a seminar hosted by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Stanford. She gave an overview of the Water Board's role in protecting water quality and discussed priorities and future research needs.

Penalties Imposed (Lila Tang)

The table below shows new complaints out for public comment as of the end of November. There is also a complaint issued in September in which Board staff and the discharger are in settlement discussion. All of the complaint information is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml.

New Complaints			
The following items are open for public comment			
Discharger	Violation	Penalty Proposed	Comment Deadline
California Water Service Company, in San Mateo	Waste of 8.2 million gallons of chloraminated potable water from late response to an alarm resulting in fish kills in Polhemus and San Mateo creeks.	\$3,060,700	December 17, 2014
Atlantic Richfield Company, Former ARCO Bulk Plant, in Oakland	Failure to timely mitigate offsite indoor air pollution.	\$561,800	December 17, 2014

The State Board Office of Enforcement includes a statewide summary of penalty enforcement in its Executive Director Report at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/eo_rpts.shtml.