

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Thomas Mumley  
MEETING DATE: December 16, 2020

**ITEM: 9**

**Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay** – Presentation on the State of the RMP by Melissa Foley, Program Manager

**DISCUSSION:**

This item will provide an update on the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay (RMP). The goal of the RMP, established by the Board in 1992, is to collect data and communicate information about water quality in San Francisco Bay in support of management and regulatory actions. These actions include development and implementation of water quality standards and total maximum daily loads for pollutants in the Bay, water-quality based permit requirements, and development and evaluation of initiatives and strategies to manage water quality in the Bay.

The RMP is administered and managed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and it is funded by regulated municipal wastewater, municipal stormwater, industrial wastewater, and dredging dischargers. RMP decisions are made through a governance structure that fosters collaboration and cooperation via engagement by Water Board staff, funding dischargers, scientists, and other interested parties. This engagement-based governance results in a comprehensive and cost-effective monitoring program that monitors the status and trends of pollutants of concern in Bay water, sediment, fish and other aquatic life, and wildlife. The RMP also conducts pilot and special studies to determine sources and loadings of pollutants and their fate, exposure, and effects, with increasing attention to emerging contaminants, sediment transport and fate, and integration of monitoring with watershed and Bay modeling. The first major re-design of status and trends monitoring since 2002 is underway with a major goal to optimize the design for monitoring emerging contaminants.

RMP results and information are readily available and recurrently updated on a web site maintained by the Estuary Institute ([www.sfei.org/programs/sf-bay-regional-monitoring-program](http://www.sfei.org/programs/sf-bay-regional-monitoring-program)). The RMP produces an annual report, which is an RMP Update in even years that provides a concise overview of recent RMP activities and findings and a look ahead to significant products anticipated in the next two years. The [RMP Update 2020](#) also includes a description of the management context that guides the RMP; a brief summary of some of the most noteworthy findings of the multifaceted RMP; and a summary of progress to date and future plans for addressing priority water quality topics. The annual report is a Pulse of the Bay in odd years that is a more comprehensive report with featured articles. The theme of the [2019 Pulse](#) was "Pollutant Pathways", with feature articles on the four major pathways by which pollutants enter the Bay: municipal wastewater, industrial wastewater, stormwater, and dredging and dredged sediment disposal.