

Executive Officer's Report August 14, 2020

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Napa River Restoration - Oakville to Oak Knoll Project (Leslie Ferguson, Setenay Bozkurt Frucht)

The Oakville to Oak Knoll Project (OVOK) project is a multi-phase restoration project with 23 restoration sites over a 9.5-mile reach of the Napa River between Oakville Cross Road and Oak Knoll Avenue. Water Board staff have been assisting Napa County Public Works in obtaining grant funds and in designing and permitting of all phases of the OVOK Project.

In July, Napa County Public Works finished construction of the latest phase of the OVOK Project (see Figure 1 below). The latest phase restored 1,500 linear feet of the main channel of the Napa River by establishing frequently activated inset floodplains and secondary channel features, installing instream habitat structures, utilizing biotechnical bank stabilization, planting native riparian vegetation, and removing invasive vegetation. These measures will: (1) reduce excessive fine sediment discharges by stabilizing the channel bed and banks; (2) promote fine sediment capture on floodplain surfaces; (3) encourage gravel deposition and pool/riffle formation; (4) reduce salmonid redd scour; and (5) establish more stable and resilient geomorphic processes. Special thanks to the Missimer family who voluntarily removed 6 acres of vineyard to allow this restoration to happen.

The next and last phase of the OVOK Project is anticipated to begin next summer. The objective of this phase is to return complexity to a reach characterized by a major secondary channel along the Napa River, which is a remnant of the broad multi-channel complex that used to spread across the Napa Valley floor. To accomplish this, the project will establish floodplain benches and alcoves to create high-flow refugia, install complex log structures and boulder clusters to increase channel complexity, and enhance the riparian corridor by planting native vegetation and removing invasive vegetation.



Figure 1: Recently Completed Phase of the Oakville to Oak Knoll Project

Red Colored Algae Bloom Investigated Near Dumbarton Bridge (Robert Schlipf)

The San Francisco Estuary Institute investigated reports of a potential harmful algae bloom near the shoreline by the Dumbarton Bridge. This algae bloom, shown in Figure 1, was originally reported to Water Board staff as a potential chemical spill on July 16.



Figure 1: Algae bloom near Dumbarton Bridge (Photo by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

To determine if this algae bloom could produce toxins, San Francisco Estuary Institute staff coordinated with individuals who reported the event to collect samples over three separate days near the Dumbarton pier for laboratory analysis by microscopy. The samples were dominated by filamentous plant-like algae with red and some green pigments, preliminary identified as falling within the Order *Cladophorales* (possibly of the genus *Cladophora*, *Chaetomorpha* or *Rhizoclonium*). These algae do not produce toxins, and microscopy analysis did not detect a meaningful presence of cyanobacteria or other harmful algae species.

The San Francisco Estuary Institute had the resources to quickly mobilize and collect these samples because of the Nutrient Management Strategy, a collaboration between researchers, regulators, and dischargers to support studies to address potential impacts from nutrients on San Francisco Bay. Wastewater treatment plants that discharge into San Francisco Bay collectively contribute \$2.2 million dollars per year to fund about 80 percent of the Nutrient Management Strategy budget.

Morrison Canyon Road Construction Activities Investigation (Joe Monical)

In April 2019 and February 2020, the Board received a report of unauthorized construction activities at a property on Morrison Canyon Road in unincorporated Alameda County. These activities were alleged to have included grading, construction of a barn to be used as a private event center, road paving, unauthorized work in creeks, use of an inadequate on-site wastewater treatment system for disposal of treated wastewater, and impoundment of water beyond amounts allowed by a State Water Board Division of Water Rights authorization.

Staff has completed an initial investigation and found that improvements at the property may have been constructed without appropriate authorizations or clean water controls. Additional information is needed to clarify the work done and whether corrective actions are necessary. Next steps include a site inspection and coordination with the property owner to obtain further information regarding the work completed. Staff will continue to coordinate with other involved agencies, including the Alameda County Public Works Agency, Alameda County Department of Environmental Health, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights.

Following the upcoming site inspection and our evaluation of the additional information provided, we will coordinate with the property owner and, if necessary, will consider issuing requirements for corrective actions.

Social Media Update (Debbie Phan)

We premiered our social media accounts in March 2020. Half a year later, we've amassed over 240 followers across our Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts. These social media platforms have been a great tool for us to share our current projects, job opportunities, outreach messages, and more. Each platform has its advantages. Twitter is limited to 280 characters and reaches the widest audience because it is most used by government agencies, non-profits, and companies. Both Facebook and Instagram allow more explanation than Twitter, making it easier for the public to understand what is behind each post, so these platforms are ideal for outreach messages. LinkedIn is a professional platform best suited for posting vacancy announcements and describing what the Water Board does.

Water Board staff and partner agencies contribute content for our social media posts. Each Water Board division shares content on a rotating basis, such as information about the latest planning efforts, remediation projects, enforcement actions, and current events. We also highlight content from our partners when appropriate, such as examples of collaboration and joint projects. Our social media outreach is still growing. In the future, we look forward to finding more ways to inform the public about our work to protect water quality. To see what is happening now, check out the following:

Twitter.com/SFBayWaterBoard

Instagram.com/SFBayWaterBoard

Facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayWaterBoard

LinkedIn.com/company/San-Francisco-Bay-Water-Quality-Control-Board

Below are our most popular social media posts on each platform:

Twitter

Total Views: 822



The Groundwater Protection Division at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board has an opening for an Engineering Geologist. Have you ever wanted to work as a regulator to protect human health, the environment and our water? Then check out <https://bit.ly/2WSCOCC>

Instagram

Total Views: 89



At our May Board meeting, we discussed the environmental effects of forever chemicals, #PFAS and #PFOA, and our ongoing investigations. To see the entire presentation, check it out at <https://bit.ly/2ZrTybF> [timestamp 3:24:40]

Facebook

Total Views: 470



With more people staying home and cooking, remember to NEVER pour fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the kitchen sink! FOG easily sticks to the inside of pipes and can be expensive (and messy) to remove. Plus it can lead to clogs (and who wants that?).

LinkedIn

Total Views: 411



Two climate change resilience projects in the San Francisco Bay region were funded by the Bay Area Council. The Council awarded grants to 12 projects as part of California Resilience Challenge, part of a statewide effort to strengthen California's resilience towards [#climatechange](#).

We look forward to both of these projects! One is a collaboration between San Francisco Estuary Institute, [Silvestrum Climate Associates, LLC](#), and Kristina Hills of UC Berkeley to research the effects of sea level rise on groundwater tables along the San Francisco Bay shoreline and the other will develop green infrastructure in San Mateo County to build resilience against flooding.

For more on these, check out <https://lnkd.in/gduVQP8>

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Establishes Spirit of Conservation Award (Keith Lichten)

At its July meeting, the [San Francisco Bay Joint Venture](#) Management Board established a new Spirit of Conservation award to honor late Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe's legacy of support for wetland conservation projects. That legacy includes active engagement with the Joint Venture, including almost two decades on the Management Board, and his role helping Joint Venture partners through the practical and regulatory challenges of implementing wetland conservation projects. The first award will go to Bruce, after which it will be renamed, in his honor, the Bruce Wolfe Spirit of Conservation Award.

Future awardees would be expected to have qualities such as significant contributions to Bay Area conservation; championing of collaborative, partnership-based approaches; the ability to view and influence the landscape from top to bottom, from larger policy issues to the details of on-the-ground actions; and a kind, caring, respectful approach to engagement and coordination.

Established in 1996 as part of the national Joint Venture program dating to 1986, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture works to conserve birds and habitat for birds, including wetlands. Its actions include coordination among a diverse group of interested stakeholders; biological planning, conservation design, and prioritization; project development and implementation; monitoring, evaluation, and applied research; communications and outreach; and providing funding support for key projects. The Spirit of Conservation award will be used in the future to bring attention to the Joint Venture's efforts and support desirable conservation approaches.

August 2020 Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and Jessica Watkins)

The following tables show the proposed and settled enforcement actions since July's report. In addition, enforcement actions are available on our website at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

Proposed Settlement			
The following is noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comment is received by the deadline, the Executive Officer will sign an order implementing the settlement.			
Discharger	Violation(s)	Proposed Penalty¹	Comment Deadline
Phillips 66 Company	Discharge limit violation.	\$285,000	August 17, 2020

- ¹ Includes \$142,500 to supplement Regional Monitoring Program studies. The Regional Monitoring Program is managed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute to collect water quality information in support of management decisions to restore and protect beneficial uses of the Region's waters.

Settled Action			
On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following:			
Discharger	Violation(s)	Imposed Penalty¹	Supplemental Environmental Project
West County Agency	Discharge limit violations.	\$84,000	\$36,000

- ¹ Includes \$36,000 towards a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for KIDS for the BAY to implement watershed stewardship and trash cleanup projects with schools in disadvantaged and environmental justice communities.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Abigail Smith)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from June 11 through July 10, 2020. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Oakland Inner Harbor Pipeline Crossing	Alameda	Alameda	✓
VA Alameda Point Multi Specialty Outpatient Clinic and Cemetery	Alameda	Alameda	✓
Sunol Regional Wilderness Park Water System Improvements	Sunol	Alameda	
Avon Marine Oil Terminal Dredge Event	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Briones Boat Ramp Extension	Martinez	Contra Costa	
South Orinda Sewer Renovations Phase 8	Orinda	Contra Costa	
Residential Yard Improvements at 3235 La Canada	Lafayette	Contra Costa	
M1 Dolphin Repair Avon Marine Oil Terminal	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Culvert Repair at Marin State Route 1	Marshall	Marin	
Order#2020-02 Dredging of Giacomini Dairy Sediment Basin	Point Reyes Station	Marin	
Creek Bank Retaining Wall Replacement	San Anselmo	Marin	
Village at Loch Lomond Marina Fueling System	San Rafael	Marin	✓

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Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Development of a Holocene Earthquake Record	Napa	Napa	
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement	San Francisco	San Francisco	
Mirada Road Ped Bridge Replacement and Bank Stabilization	Half Moon Bay	San Mateo	
San Francisquito Creek Bank Stabilization	Menlo Park	Santa Clara	
Google Landings Permanente Creek Enhancement	Mountain View	Santa Clara	✓
Los Trancos Creek Habitat Enhancement	Portola Valley	Santa Clara	
Saratoga Creek Trail from Homeridge Park to Central Park	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	
Emergency Gas Leak in Petaluma-3393 Petaluma Blvd S	Petaluma	Sonoma	✓