

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Heather Ottaway)
MEETING DATE: September 12, 2007

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: **2007 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award**—
Presentation of Award in Recognition of Exceptional
Accomplishments in Pollution Prevention in the San Francisco Bay
Area

CHRONOLOGY: This is the first time we are presenting this award.

DISCUSSION: At the request of Chairman Muller, we developed an award to honor the legacy of Dr. Teng-chung Wu and his tireless efforts to promote pollution prevention. We anticipate making this an annual award, timed to coincide with National Pollution Prevention Week, which is September 18 to 24 this year.

The 2007 recipients of the Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award are the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The award to BAPPG recognizes its exemplary leadership and outreach demonstrated by a regional workshop held in 2006 entitled “Creating a Dental Amalgam Program.” The award to the District recognizes outstanding innovation in pollution prevention projects through collaboration with local environmental advocacy groups.

BAPPG’s award acknowledges its collaborative approach to pollution prevention, which Dr. Wu strongly supported. The goal of BAPPG’s dental amalgam workshop was to provide wastewater agencies with the tools and knowledge to start their own dental amalgam reduction programs. Almost 90 people, representing 45 Northern California agencies and businesses, attended the workshop. Since then, nine local agencies in the region have implemented new dental amalgam programs.

The District collaborated with Save the Bay, BayKeeper, and the Environmental Working Group to enhance outreach and education concerning mercury; fats, oils, and grease; pharmaceuticals; and other emerging concerns in its service area. Through these collaborative programs, the District has collected 650 pounds of pharmaceuticals, 2500 thermometers and other mercury-containing devices, and 1700 gallons of residential fats, oils, and grease for reuse or recycling. This is one of the first efforts in the region where a regulated agency

actively sought out environmental groups to share and jointly implement measures that both educate the public and improve water quality.

An impressive group of applicants applied for this year's award, demonstrating that agencies and individuals throughout the region are dedicated to pollution prevention efforts. Honorable mention goes to San Mateo County's Pharmaceutical Disposal Program for its dedication and commitment to improving the environment and providing benefit to the community. The non-regulatory program established pharmaceutical disposal receptacles at local police departments, the Sheriff's Office, and the County courthouse. Approximately 1,800 pounds of discarded pharmaceuticals have been collected for proper disposal since the program began.

RECOMMENDATION: No action is necessary.