CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *July – August 2012*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2012 **WEBSITE:** http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Napa River Restoration Project Receives Award (Leslie Ferguson)
The Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project, a 4.5 mile river restoration project in the upper Napa River, received statewide recognition on May 21. In the Legislature, Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblyman Michael Allen presented certificates of recognition to the members of the Rutherford Dust Society, Napa County, Napa RCD and their partners, and the Water Boards. Further recognition of all the partners was made at a wine reception in the Capitol attended by numerous members of the Legislature and Governor Brown. Leslie Laudon (State Water Board) and I accepted the certificates on behalf of the State and Regional Water Boards.

The State and Regional Water Boards invested significant staff and financial resources to this project, which is the largest river restoration project in our region. The project includes removing fish passage barriers, recontouring river banks and removing some vineyard area to reduce bank erosion, and reconfiguring the river's bed to provide fish refugia. It complements the downstream Napa River Flood Protection Project in Napa. The Water Boards are providing over $2 million for project construction through U.S. EPA grant funds. Board staff Ann Riley (project lead), Mike Napolitano, Rico Duazo, and Leslie Ferguson have worked on the environmental elements of project design, permitting, and managing grant funds.

This project is identified in the Napa River sediment TMDL as a measure to significantly reduce

fine sediment input to the Napa River from channel incision and bank erosion and improve fish and riparian habitat. Project monitoring already indicates an improvement in fish habitat conditions.

The citizens of Napa County continue to play a starring role in the Bay Area for their willingness to modify their land use needs and contribute funds to restore the vitality of the Napa River watershed. According to Gretchen Hayes, Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project Landowner Liaison, "the Rutherford Dust Restoration Team represents the epitome of a collaborative community effort to restore a living and resilient river. This project is a model of forward-looking and extraordinary environmental stewardship. Investing in the future, diverse stakeholders are successfully working together to create and protect the things we value most in common: a healthy environment, a thriving economy, and a meaningful connection to the place we call home."

U.S. EPA Approves Tomales Bay Mercury TMDL (Carrie Austin**)**
In May, the Board adopted the Tomales Bay Mercury TMDL, which was the first time the Board adopted a TMDL by resolution rather than by amending the Basin Plan. The resolution was appropriate because no new required actions are needed to implement this TMDL. U.S. EPA commented in support of the efficient resolution process. In June, staff transmitted the TMDL to U.S. EPA, who promptly approved it on July 3.

At the May Board meeting, Board member Young asked about time trends in mercury from atmospheric deposition. Figure 1 shows estimated historic and modern anthropogenic mercury emissions into the atmosphere from North America beginning in 1800, and for the rest of the world beginning in 1990. It was prepared by Michelle Wood of the Central Valley Regional Water Board for the Statewide Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs.

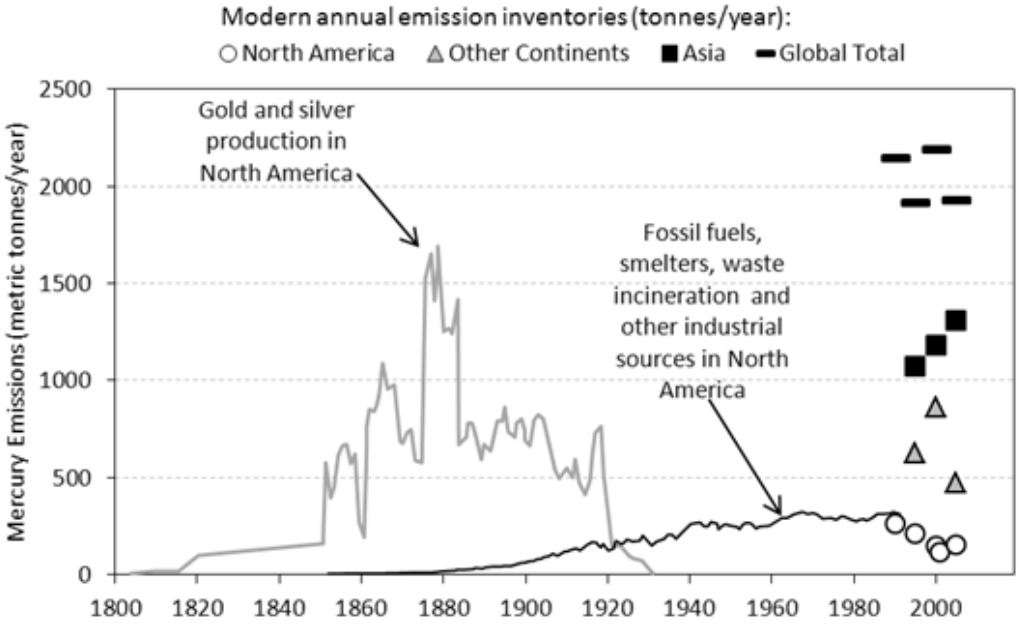

Figure 1. *Estimated historic and modern anthropogenic mercury emissions.*

The grey line shows that North American mercury emissions peaked before 1890, and the black line shows a steady increase due to industrialization. The open circles show that since 1990, North American regulations, including the federal Clean Air Act, have measurably reduced emissions. However, the black squares show that emissions from Asia have increased in recent decades and are far greater than mercury emissions from North America.

New Water Recycling Projects in the SF Bay Region (Blair Allen)
Several new municipal water recycling projects are nearing completion and will begin distributing recycled water this dry season. Three are related projects in Marin County and the fourth is in Pacifica, San Mateo County. I recently authorized these projects under the authority delegated to me by the Board's General Water Reuse Requirements for municipal water recycling programs (General WRR).

The State and Regional Water Boards regulate water recycling in coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH reviews engineering reports, verifies treatment performance, and provides permit recommendations to the Water Boards for proposed projects. Until this Water Board adopted the General WRR in 1996, WRRs for recycling projects were developed and considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The General WRR provides a more resource-efficient permitting process, with a given set of requirements applicable to similar projects throughout the Region, a comprehensive application process, allowance for adding new recycled water users without the need for Board action, and delegation of recycling project enrollment authorization to the Executive Officer. About half of the recycling projects in our Region are regulated under the General WRR.

For the three related projects in Marin County, the Novato Sanitary District and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District are both constructing facilities to produce disinfected, tertiary recycled water, while the North Marin Water District (NMWD) will be the agency responsible for managing the distribution and use of the recycled water. The three main entities chose to each apply for coverage under the General WRR for their respective portions of the overall recycled water program. The treatment facilities are located at each respective sanitary district's existing wastewater treatment plant. The Novato SD facility will produce up to 1.7 million gallons per day (mgd). The Las Gallinas Valley SD facility will initially produce 0.7 mgd, with a planned expansion to 2.7 mgd by 2014. Each production facility will deliver treated recycled water to NMWD's distribution system at the treatment plant boundary.

The distribution system managed by NMWD includes both existing and planned new pipelines in two separate pipe networks, north and south, and two new 0.5-million gallon capacity storage reservoir tanks for each network. The north network will distribute recycled water from the Novato SD facility, and the south network will distribute water from the Las Gallinas Valley SD facility. NMWD owns and operates the pipelines and will permit and track all recycled water users and use areas. The primary use will be landscape irrigation at parks, schools, a golf course, a cemetery, and around commercial and residential buildings. NMWD expects to begin delivering recycled water this September.

The project in Pacifica also involves multiple entities responsible for production, distribution, and end-use, but in this case I have authorized it as a single project covered under the General WRR under the auspices of the North Coast County Water District. The Water District will construct and operate a system to distribute disinfected, tertiary recycled water produced by the City of Pacifica at the City's Calera Creek Water Reclamation Plant. This recycled water will be used for landscape irrigation at two city parks and two public schools, by Caltrans for Highway 1 landscaping, and at the Sharp Park Golf Course, which is owned by the City and County of San Francisco. The project's design flow is 0.5 mgd, with an expected annual demand of 55 million gallons. The Water District expects to begin delivering recycled water by the end of the summer.

Grand Opening of Cooley Landing Park in East Palo Alto (Mark Johnson)
On July 21, I participated in the grand opening ceremony for the Cooley Landing Park on the Bayfront in East Palo Alto. Board staff has been working with the City of East Palo Alto since the mid-1990s to see that the 9-acre Cooley Landing site was properly cleaned up and opened to public access. Cooley Landing was initially used as a wharf/landing starting in the mid-1800s. From the 1930s to the mid-1950s, the County of San Mateo used the site as a municipal dump where garbage was burned, and, from the 1960s to the mid-1990s, it was used as a boat yard. The City acquired the site in the mid-1990s, but its hazardous condition precluded its public use until now.

While more work to develop the park remains, Phase One of its cleanup and redevelopment included the remediation of the former burn dump by capping and stabilizing wastes and building a new loop trail and other public access features. Finally, after more than 15 years of work, for the first time, the East Palo Alto community can enjoy direct access to the Bay in a beautiful park setting.

The ceremony was well attended by local elected officials and stakeholders, including Congresswoman Eschoo. East Palo Alto Mayor Laura Martinez and U.S. EPA Project Manager Lily Lee were among those who recognized the Board's lengthy role in getting the site to this stage and called out the tireless efforts of Mark Johnson, who has been the Board's project manager for the site since the 1990s. As part of the ceremony, there were historical re-enactments and exhibits that reflected on the many peoples who have inhabited the area through the centuries and contributed to the site's development. In fact, descendants of the Cooley family were also present.

Last November, Board staff briefed the Board on the Cooley Landing cleanup and other wetland restoration/cleanup projects (e.g., Salt Pond SF-2, the former Peninsula Sportmen's Club, and the Cooley Landing Salt Pond) located immediately south of the Dumbarton Bridge. These projects together total about 400 acres and stretch southward contiguously from the Dumbarton Bridge to the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge immediately south of Cooley Landing.

In-house Training

On June 26, we had a brief, web-based orientation to MS Outlook, the email software that all the Water Boards started using on July 10. This is a significant statewide transition, since we use emails for most communications, and we also use our email software to schedule meetings and set tasks. The State Water Board has arranged for a more "hands-on" training on MS Outlook; the session at our office will be in early August.

Recent brownbag seminars included the following:

On June 20, UC Berkeley Professor David Sedlak gave an overview of the Engineering Research Center for ReNUWit, short for "Reinventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure." ReNUWIt is a collaborative effort among four academic institutions (UC Berkeley, Stanford University, New Mexico State University, and the Colorado School of Mines) to develop new strategies for improving water quality and restoring urban watersheds. ReNUWit aims to develop innovative technologies and efficient systems-level approaches for improving municipal water delivery, wastewater treatment, management of surface waters (creeks, wetlands, and stormwater), and integration of urban water management systems and institutions. ReNUWit is in the first year of a 10-year research project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Part of ReNUWit's work is to bridge the gap between scholarship and "real world" applications. To this end, I recommended that ReNUWit coordinate with some of the low impact development projects underway in our region. As a result, ReNUWit is now working with the Estuary Partnership to test newly designed soil mixes in select sites of the San Pablo Avenue Green Storm Water Spine Project (http://www.sfestuary.org/projects/detail2.php?projectID=56). These mixes have been laboratory tested for increased removal of emerging pollutants of concern such as nutrients and pathogens. More information about ReNUWit is available at: http://urbanwatererc.org/.

On June 21, Dawn Zemo presented results of a collaboration with Chevron on polar compounds in groundwater. Work since the mid-1990s has shown that a large proportion of organics in polluted groundwater (measured as extractable petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater at biodegrading petroleum sites) is composed of polar, non-hydrocarbon compounds. These compounds can be separated from hydrocarbons by applying a silica-gel cleanup (SGC) prior to analysis. However, some regulatory agencies have been hesitant to allow SGC because of uncertainty around the nature and toxicity of the compounds removed. This seminar provided useful information about which polar compounds are found in groundwater, which compounds are removed by silica-gel cleanup, and the estimated toxicity and natural attenuation of these compounds.

Staff Presentations

On June 20, I participated in the Grand Opening Celebration of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's new headquarters at 525 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. What made this celebration notable is that the new headquarters is considered to be one of the "greenest" buildings in North America. Besides such green features as a vaste solar array and wind turbines on the building that are expected to generate 7% of the building's energy needs, the building is expected to use 60% less water than similarly-sized buildings. This reduction in water use will be achieved through use of the "Living Machine", an onsite treatment system that is designed to treat and reuse 5,000 gallons per day of the building's wastewater, and a rainwater harvesting system that is expected to provide 250,000 gallons per year for the building's landscape irrigation system. We'll track the Commission's experiences with these features to see how they may be applied to buildings elsewhere in our region.

Recent Penalty Enforcement Complaints and Settlements (Lila Tang)

The following tables show a recently issued complaint, proposed settlements, and settled actions for assessment of penalties as of the June report. All active cases are available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

New Complaints
These items are or were recently open for public comment:

Discharger	Violation	Penalty Proposed	Comment Deadline
Mayhew Center LLC, in Pleasant Hill	Failure to timely provide site investigation information	$16,942	July 18, 2012

Proposed Settlements
The following are 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
Guadalupe Rubbish Disposal Co., Inc., in San Jose	Unauthorized discharge of landfill gas condensate to tributary of McAbee Creek	$167,285	Comments Received
California Department of Transportation, Project in Town of Woodside	Unauthorized discharge of potable water to Bear Gulch Creek	$13,200	Comments Received
City of American Canyon, Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	August 6, 2012
Browning-Ferris Industries, Corinda Los Trancos Landfill, in Half Moon Bay	Discharge limit exceedance	$3,000	August 10, 2012
City of American Canyon, Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge limit exceedances	$6,000	August 10, 2012
Morton International, Morton Salt Division, in Newark	Discharge limit exceedance	$3,000	August 17, 2012

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

Discharger	Violation	Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
Ross Valley Sanitary District collection system, in San Rafael	Sewage overflows to Corte Madera Creek and tributaries	$1,539,100	Enhance tidal function of 4-acre Corte Madera Creek marsh, and provide grants to repair private sewer laterals.
City of Napa, Hennessey Water Treatment Plant, in St. Helena	Discharge limit exceedances	$33,000	Not applicable
City of Richmond, Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge limit exceedances	$18,000	Not applicable
Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, in Sonoma	Discharge limit exceedances	$12,000	Not applicable
TRC Companies, Inc., in Concord	Discharge limit exceedances	$12,000	Not applicable
Blommer Chocolate Co., In Union City	Late annual industrial stormwater report	$4,000	Not applicable
Uni Tile & Marble, in Hayward	Late annual industrial stormwater report	$3,000	Not applicable

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