STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2015

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *February 2015*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2015 **WEBSITE:** http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Cleanup of Former Firefighting School on Treasure Island (Myriam Zech)

Last month, I signed a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the remedy selected for Site 6, the Navy's former Firefighting Training School on Treasure Island (Figure 1). Site 6 is a modest, oddly-shaped, asphalt-covered 4.54-acre parcel in the northeastern portion of Treasure Island.

Figure 1. *Site 6, former Firefighting Training School, Treasure Island.*

The school was used to train firefighters from 1944 to 1992. While in operation, it included 23 buildings, 6 underground storage tanks (USTs), 1 aboveground storage tank (AST), and a central training yard that consisted of burn areas lined with asphalt and concrete. Practice fires were fueled with diesel and gasoline, magnesium, and wood, and extinguished with firefighting foam mixtures. Approximately 51,000 gallons of fuel were used each year. The Navy installed a perimeter trench to collect any unburned fuel.

All buildings have been removed from Site 6, along with the USTs, AST, oil-water separator, pipelines, and nearly 800 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils. However, contaminated soil and groundwater from these sources still needs to be addressed. In addition, dioxins and furans (associated with burn ash) are present in soil in the wedge-shaped area in the northern part of the site.

According to the City's reuse plan, proposed future uses on and near Site 6 include open space for public, civic, and institutional uses including a new wastewater treatment and recycled water plant. Thus, future recreational users, non-residential building occupants, and construction workers were considered in the site cleanup risk evaluation. To mitigate potential risks to future users, the selected remedy consists of the following components:

- Excavation of unsaturated zone soil in areas that continue to have elevated contaminant concentrations, specifically naphthalene (a petroleum constituent), dioxins and furans (combustion by-products), and volatile organic compounds;
- Implementation of institutional controls to prohibit residential uses, to require a soil management plan and a groundwater management plan prior to excavations, and to require an evaluation of potential risks to terrestrial receptors if future wildlife habitat is to be developed;
- Implementation of engineering controls, such as vapor barriers for enclosed structures; and
- Additional soil gas sampling for naphthalene (a petroleum constituent) before the property is transferred, to confirm that source removal actions have resulted in acceptable residual soil contaminant levels.

A property deed notice will document the institutional and engineering controls and require that future site owners/occupants be informed about potential groundwater contamination and exposure risks. A covenant to restrict use of property will be used to enforce the controls. Water Board staff will continue to review groundwater monitoring reports, and deed notification requirements can be voided if and when residual soil gas concentrations fall below commercial/industrial risk-based standards and there is no longer a threat to future building occupants or construction workers.

The next step is the remedial design, which the Navy anticipates submitting in late spring. It will provide even greater detail about how the excavation and various controls will be implemented. This work will help clear the way for inclusion of Site 6 in the Navy's transfer plan to the City of San Francisco.

In-house Training

Our January training was "Water Board 101," a comprehensive overview of applicable laws, regulations, and policy for recently-hired staff. Our February training will be on stormwater chemistry principles.

Staff Presentations

On January 15, I spoke to the Science Advisory Board of Re-inventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure or ReNUWIt – the National Science Foundation's Engineering Research Center headed by researchers at UC Berkeley and Stanford. My talk covered a brief history of wastewater treatment in the Bay Area, the evolution of the Board's Nutrient Watershed Permit, and that permit's requirements for the evaluation of wastewater treatment optimization and upgrades. The resultant discussion explored how ReNUWIt can assist in the development of innovative nutrient treatment technologies and how ReNUWIt can help overcome the aversion to risk posed by innovative technologies.

On January 21, Stephen Hill, Laurent Meillier, Cheryl Prowell, and Alec Naugle presented a regulatory update to the Bay Area branch of the Groundwater Resources Association (GRA). GRA is a non-profit organization that promotes the protection and improvement of groundwater supply and quality. Stephen discussed new State legislation that requires sustainable groundwater management and potential funding sources for its implementation (including SB 445 and Proposition 1). Laurent gave an update on implementation of the State Water Board's low-threat closure policy for leaking underground fuel tanks. Cheryl spoke about new developments in the world of vapor intrusion, notably U.S. EPA's new guidance for a common solvent (trichlorethene or TCE) and our approach to TCE vapor intrusion. Lastly, Alec discussed specific groundwater management activities in our region, including salt and nutrient management plans for several key groundwater basins in our region.

The audience of about 120 included environmental cleanup consultants, environmental attorneys, vendors, and dischargers. Our staff has been making this annual presentation for over 20 years. This meeting continues to be the best attended meeting for this GRA branch and provides a useful forum for Board staff to interact with the regulated community.

On January 28, Keith Lichten spoke at The Watershed Project's symposium "Greening Urban Watersheds: Thinking Like a Forest" at El Cerrito City Hall. He discussed how cities can meet regulatory standards for stormwater and joined speakers including Josh Bradt of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, Jane Martin of Plant:SF, and Brock Dolman of the Occidental Ecology Center.

On January 29, I joined Kathleen Johnson, U.S. EPA's Enforcement Division Director, and Brian Bunger, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Chief Counsel, on a panel at Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLC's Environmental Law Workshop. Our panel focused on the environmental regulators' perspective to resolving environmental issues, the challenges regulators face, and our respective priorities and goals. All of us on the panel emphasized ways that the regulated community can work with regulatory agencies to achieve the best outcomes possible.

On January 30, I spoke at the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies' annual meeting on the Board's

accomplishments and priorities relative to the municipal wastewater discharge community. I focused on the priorities spelled out at the Board November 2014 Priorities' Workshop, including continuing to develop and implement the nutrient management strategy for the Bay and pursuing enforcement against sewage spills. I also emphasized the need for all wastewater agencies to be proactive in addressing the drought, updating their infrastructure, and planning for sea level rise.

Penalties Imposed (Lila Tang)

The table below shows an imposed penalty. There are also three complaints issued in September and November 2014 in which Board staff and the dischargers are in settlement discussions. These are all available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml.

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

Discharger	Violation	Penalty Imposed	Supplemental Environmental Project
CEMEX Construction Materials Pacific, LLC, in Sunol	Late discharge reports and violations of the settleable solids discharge limit.	$39,000	none

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.