

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (James Parrish)  
MEETING DATE: September 9, 2015

**ITEM:** 3

**SUBJECT:** 2015 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award – Presentation of Award to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for Leadership in Campaigning Against Flushing Disposable Wipes

**CHRONOLOGY:** See Appendix A

**DISCUSSION:** The item is the presentation of the 2015 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District in recognition of its spirited campaign against flushing disposable wipes. Even so-called “flushable” disposable wipes do not break down after being flushed, potentially causing sanitary sewer collection system overflows onto streets and homes. Overflows pose enormous environmental and public health hazards. Wipes can also jam wastewater treatment equipment increasing the public cost of maintenance and repair.

The District’s leadership with wipes began in 2009, when tangled masses of wipes continued to clog a District pump station. Since then, the District has launched a vigorous “Wipes Clog Pipes!” campaign, spreading the message at community events and through newsletters, social media ads, and a giant billboard along Interstate 680. The District is also working with industry groups to develop new flushability guidelines and improve wipes’ design and labeling. The District has the second-largest sanitary sewer collection system in the region and has among the lowest sanitary sewer overflows per mile.

The Board established the Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award in 2007 to honor the legacy of Dr. Wu, who worked for many years at the Board and was a pollution prevention advocate long before it became popular. He believed the best way to keep the Bay clean was to keep pollutants from getting into wastewater, instead of constructing expensive treatment works to remove them. The annual award in his name, affectionately called the “WuHoo Award,” recognizes innovation, effectiveness, and collaboration in pollution prevention.

**RECOMMEN-  
DATION:** No action is necessary.

**APPENDIX A:** WuHoo Award Recipients

## Appendix A

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
2007	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group	Mercury reduction education
	East Bay Municipal Utility District	Collaboration with local groups
2008	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Fats, oils, and grease to fuel program
2009	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group	“No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign
2010	Wastewater Treatment Agencies of Marin County	Collaborative public education program
2011	Millbrae Water Pollution Prevention Program	Outstanding public outreach
2012	Alameda County	Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance
	Thomas Barron	Lifetime achievement in pollution prevention
2013	City of Palo Alto	Research and outreach efforts on contaminants of emerging concern
2014	Phil Bobel	Lifetime achievement in pollution prevention