

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (James Parrish)
MEETING DATE: September 13, 2017

ITEM: 3A

SUBJECT: 2017 Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award –
Presentation of Award to Melody LaBella and Karin North for Leadership in
Pollution Prevention

CHRONOLOGY: See Appendix A

DISCUSSION: This item is the presentation of the 2017 Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution
Prevention Award to Melody LaBella and Karin North in recognition of
their lengthy leadership in pollution prevention in the Bay Area.

Melody and Karin have enthusiastically led pollution prevention efforts for more than a decade. Together, they have been powerful advocates within the Bay Area's wastewater community, leading numerous Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group outreach projects, including projects to reduce fats, oils, and grease; pesticides; pharmaceuticals; and mercury. Karin has championed emerging contaminant studies and efforts to reduce emerging contaminants in wastewater. Melody has championed the Region's "Wipes Clog Pipes!" campaign. Both masterminded the "Toilets Aren't Trashcans" campaign. To promote product stewardship, they have worked hand-in-hand with industries and legislative decision-makers to accomplish things the wastewater community could not do on its own. They have promoted their causes across the country, always encouraging—and often cajoling—others to do their part, leading by example and showing others how they too can contribute to pollution prevention efforts.

We recognize Melody and Karin's pollution prevention leadership at this time because both are moving on to greater responsibilities within their organizations. Karin is now Watershed Protection Manager for the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant, and Melody is now Resource Recovery Program Manager for the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District.

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 recognizes innovation, effectiveness, and collaboration in pollution prevention.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

No action is necessary.

APPENDIX A:

Past Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Appendix A

Year	Recipient	Achievement
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
2015	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	Leading a campaign against flushing disposable wipes
2016	City of San Jose	Innovative outreach campaigns