

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

MEETING DATE: February 14, 2018

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *February 2018*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: February 14, 2018 WEBSITE: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

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Third-Party Programs approved to help farmers comply with the General Permit for Vineyard Properties (Michael Napolitano)

On January 12, I approved four groups as approved Third-Party Programs to support implementation of the General Waste Discharge Requirements (General Permit) the Board adopted in July 2017 for vineyard properties in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The four approved groups are listed below in alphabetical order:

- California Land Stewardship Institute (Fish Friendly Farming Program)
- California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance
- Napa County Resource Conservation District (LandSmart Program)
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District (LandSmart Program)

Implementation of the General Permit relies on Third-Party Programs, which are groups that provide technical assistance to farmers to help them comply with the General Permit. The primary role for Third-Party Programs is to assist farmers with development of farm plans that upon the plans' full implementation, will achieve the performance standards for sediment, pesticide, and nutrient control specified in the General Permit.

In early spring 2018, Board staff will launch an outreach program to answer questions about the General Permit's requirements, explain how to enroll for General Permit coverage, and connect vineyard owners and operators to approved Third-Party Programs.

PCBs Concentrations in Bay Sediment: Data Visualization Project (Sara Melick and Jan O'Hara)

As one component of implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for PCBs in San Francisco Bay, the Board's Planning and Toxics divisions are engaged in a cross-divisional project to identify, evaluate, and help prioritize possible PCBs-contaminated sites for cleanup. The cross-divisional team of Board staff also develops tools to assist in TMDL implementation; for example, the team has produced a [fact sheet](#) on what to do when PCBs are present in soil in order to ensure their proper management.

Recently, Sara Melick, our Planning Division scientific aid, created a spatial database of PCBs concentrations in Bay sediment, fulfilling a need to capture information from numerous sources in one useful format. This tool helps us visualize current PCBs sediment concentrations and provides useful information internally and to our partners working on PCBs TMDL implementation and cleanup projects.

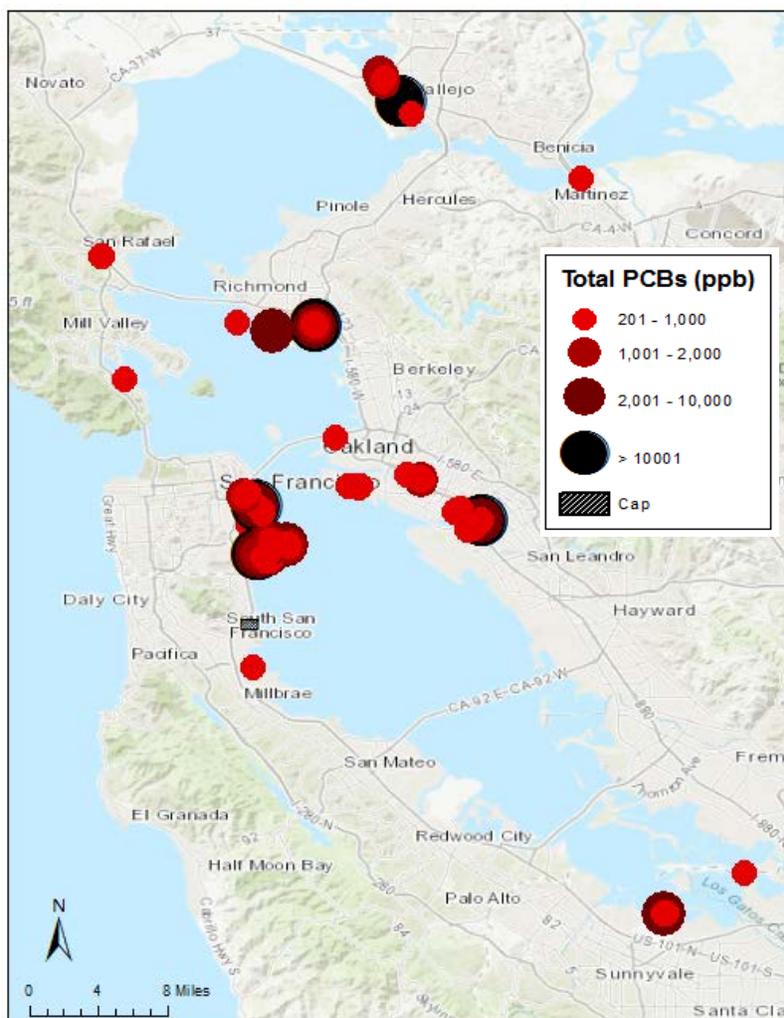


Figure 1. Surface PCB concentrations in San Francisco Bay

This work was based largely on the Bay Protection and Toxics Cleanup Program (BPTCP) Final Technical Report, which includes data collected from sediment monitoring in our Region

during the 1990s for the purpose of identifying toxic hot spots. For each BPTCP hot spot, we obtained the most recent PCBs data available, by working with staff internally and partner organizations, as well as searching online databases. PCBs data for other sites around the Bay are also included in the database.

This project accomplished the following:

- Digitized data obtained in the 1990s through the BPTCP
- Digitized data on PCBs in sediment at other in-Bay sites
- Produced a comprehensive dataset on PCBs concentrations in Bay sediment that can be useful both to Board staff and to other organizations
- Provided a visual representation of PCBs concentrations and contaminated areas when viewed in the GIS program, ArcMAP

The map above (Figure 1) shows sediment surface PCB concentrations above 201 ppb. To our knowledge, these data represent conditions in 2018. This is a tool we will use to help prioritize areas of elevated contamination for further action. In addition, we have shared this information with Estuary Institute staff for use in relation to work the Regional Monitoring Program is engaged in to evaluate PCBs concentrations in the Bay along the shoreline. We will regularly update the Board as we continue to implement the PCBs TMDL.

A Decade of Complaint and Spill Triage (Yan Nusinovich and Brian Thompson)

A little over a decade ago, at 8:30 a.m. on November 7, 2007, the Cosco Busan container ship collided with the Bay Bridge, spilled over 53,000 gallons of bunker fuel oil into San Francisco Bay, caused more than 6,800 bird fatalities, and decimated the local fish population the following year.¹ Figure 2 provides not-so-fond memories of that event.



Figure 2. Oil covered intertidal zone at Golden Gate Fields' Rocky Beach directly following the Cosco Busan spill.

¹ "Remembering Cosco Busan: An Overview of the 2007 Oil Spill" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<https://darrp.noaa.gov/oil-spills/remembering-cosco-busan-overview-2007-oil-spill>)

To better prepare for similar incidents in the future, we developed a centralized complaint and spill notification system, implemented protocols to triage incoming reports, and trained staff for spill response. Some highlights of our successful spill and complaint triage system over the last ten years include the following activities:

- We have processed roughly 24,000 complaints and spill reports. We receive between 100 and 300 reports each month, with significantly more reports during rainy weather (e.g., polluted stormwater discharges and sanitary sewer overflows).
- We have immediately notified the executive management team and State Water Board public information officers about priority incidents (e.g., those involving fish kills, public health hazards, or large spill volumes).
- Enforcement staff receive incident command system training and participate in spill exercises to prepare for future significant events.
- We have improved our internal communications about complaints and spills and now ensure that local agencies are notified when incidents require their attention.

Anyone interested in reporting a problem can go to our website, contact our telephone hotline (510-622-2369), email rb2spillreports@waterboards.ca.gov, or use the Cal/EPA environmental complaint system (<https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/>).

We monitor incoming notifications four times each day. Most of the notices we receive come from the State's Office of Emergency Services Warning Center, which coordinates and oversees emergency response and homeland security activities for the State. The Office of Emergency Services Warning Center routes notices that could relate to water quality through our telephone hotline and email system. While significantly fewer notifications come from Cal/EPA, this may change with implementation of a new Cal/EPA complaint system, which features an improved, more user-friendly, public interface. The Cal/EPA system facilitates coordination across Cal/EPA boards, departments, and offices, allows for better complaint and response tracking, and includes the ability to refer cases to internal staff or outside agencies for more effective communication and response.

Staff Presentations

On January 17, Environmental Program Manager Stephen Hill, Senior Engineering Geologist Ross Steenson, Senior Engineer Cheryl Prowell, and Senior Engineering Geologist David Elias 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 several "news" items: the Water Boards' new cannabis program, underground storage tank program developments, improvements in our case prioritization method, our website update, and a planned update to our low-threat closure assessment tool for solvent-impacted sites. Ross described recent developments on the vapor intrusion issue, including this region's role in preparing Cal/EPA guidance on vapor intrusion assessment. Cheryl spoke about the SB445 "site cleanup subaccount" program and how we are using these resources to resolve inactive cases and to work on high-priority cleanup issues. David gave an update on our Department of Defense/Department of Energy program, noting continued progress on completing site cleanups and putting surplus military property back into productive use. The audience of

about 130 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 staff to interact with the regulated community.

On January 19, I spoke as part of a panel of regulators at the Annual Meeting of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), which includes most wastewater and sanitary sewer collection system agencies in the Bay Region. In my remarks, I congratulated the BACWA membership on its progress in studying the agencies' options to further reduce nutrient loads in wastewater discharges and on weathering the wet winter of 2016-17 with relatively few sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) or wastewater spills. However, I cautioned the membership that further nutrient study is needed and minimizing SSOs and wastewater spills remains a high priority for the Board. I encouraged the membership to continue its progress in providing shoreline resilience to its infrastructure, expanding recycled water use, and reducing loadings of constituents like mercury, copper, cyanide, and PCBs to the Bay. Finally, I encouraged the membership to identify priority issues needing Basin Plan amendments during the Board's triennial review of the Basin Plan coming later this year.

In-house Training

In January, the In-House Training Committee delivered a session on effective negotiation. Environmental Program Manager Bill Johnson of the NPDES Division set the stage by reminding us that we negotiate all the time. Dr. Juliana Birkhoff, from the Center for Collaborative Policy at Sacramento State, led the training. A panel consisting of representatives from Industry (Mike Ammann, Chevron Energy Technology Company and a former Board employee), Consulting (Tom Grieb, Tetra Tech, Inc.), and Regulatory (Tom Mumley of this Board) provided real-world water quality negotiation experience and lessons-learned. Dr. Birkhoff's first tip is to know when to—or when not to—negotiate. Another tip: prepare, prepare, prepare! Dr. Birkhoff explained why we should keep asking questions: to move people away from their positions and towards identifying their interests, which allows for a negotiated solution.

We hosted one brownbag seminar in January and it was on the topic of drywell technologies and their utility in stormwater management and groundwater recharge. Travis Pacheco, of Torrent Resources, focused his presentation on how drywells fit into the regulatory, design, and installation environments to give the designer an excellent tool for achieving groundwater infiltration when traditional and commonly used methods are insufficient.

Enforcement Actions (Mary Boyd and Brian Thompson)

No enforcement actions have been issued since last month's report. Proposed and settled actions are available on our website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Abigail Smith)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from December 11, 2017, through January 9, 2018. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Future Development on Parcel C – Creation of Level Pads	Newark	Alameda	✓
Oak Street to Ninth Avenue – Debris Removal from Bay	Oakland		✓
West Bank of Alameda Creek - Installation of New Gas Transmission Pipeline	Sunol		
Newhall Park Pond Dredging Project	Concord	Contra Costa	
Pinole Valley Road Sinkhole Repair	El Sobrante		
2805 Norris Canyon Road Bridge Replacement	San Ramon		
Restoration of Azalea Hill – Removing Roads and Trails	Fairfax	Marin	
San Anselmo Creek Bank Repair	Fairfax		
Deck Addition and Replacement	Larkspur		✓
15 Monte Vista Avenue - Property Improvements and Channel Restoration	Larkspur		
Muir Woods - Phase 1 Restoration of Salmon Habitat	Mill Valley		
Cass Gidley Marina Accessibility Improvements	Sausalito		✓
Cardey Residence Driveway Improvement Plans	Napa	Napa	✓
Hamey Vineyards - Conversion of Land to Vineyard	St. Helena		
58 Mulberry Lane - Culvert Realignment	Atherton	San Mateo	
Butano Creek - Installation of Soldier Beam Wall	Pescadero		
Arastradero and Alpine Roads – Installation of Soldier Pile Wall	Portola Valley		
Port of Redwood City - Berths 1-4 Widening	Redwood City		✓
1548 Maple Street - Townhouse Development	Redwood City		✓
Menlo Country Club – Storm Drain Rehabilitation Project	Woodside		
Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Proj – Phase 3 Supplemental Geo Investigation	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara	
City of Palo Alto Pipeline Installation	Palo Alto		✓
5400 Hanna Ranch Road - Construction of Commercial Office Space	Novato	Sonoma	✓
SMART - Non-Motorized Pathway Installation From Payran Street to Southpoint Blvd	Petaluma		