

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

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2019

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *April 2019*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2019

WEBSITE: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

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Cleanup Orders Issued by Executive Officer (Mark Johnson)

The Board has delegated to the Executive Officer the authority to issue, amend, or rescind site cleanup orders pursuant to Water Code section 13304. The choice between having these orders acted upon by the Board or by the Executive Officer hinges on the degree of controversy and urgency in each case. In general, I issue, amend, or rescind these orders in situations where there is little or no controversy or when there is some urgency (e.g., cleanup action is needed promptly to address a current or imminent threat to human health or the environment). Otherwise, we bring these types of cleanup orders to the Board for its consideration and action in a public hearing.

Baron Blakeslee In mid March, I amended the 2007 site cleanup order for the former Baron Blakeslee chemical storage, distribution, and recycling facility located at 8333 Enterprise Drive in Newark, Alameda County. Operations at the site resulted in releases of volatile organic compounds to soil and groundwater. Honeywell, the successor to Baron Blakeslee, has been cleaning up the site since 1998, pursuant to Board site cleanup orders. The amendment provides a one-year extension in the deadline for a five-year status report. This will allow more time for in-situ groundwater bioremediation to take effect and reduce groundwater concentrations. Current groundwater concentrations pose no threat to existing receptors.

Radiological Concerns at the Former Treasure Island Naval Station (Katrina Kaiser)

On March 21, The former Naval Station Treasure Island (TI) has been in the news recently due to concerns about the validity of radiological testing. The concerns stem from the fact that Tetra Tech EC (a Navy contractor), who was recently sued for fraud for falsifying radiological testing at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, also conducted radiological testing for the Navy at TI. TI includes both a constructed island built on submerged land (403 acres) and a portion of Yerba Buena Island, a naturally-occurring island (147 acres).

During World War II, TI was used primarily for support services to the U.S. Pacific Fleet including training, administration, housing, an urgent care hospital, and a repair yard for small vessels. At the time the Naval Station was closed in 1997, the radiological concern areas included the Solid Waste Disposal Areas in the northern portion of TI, a former radiological safety school (Building 233), the former USS Pandemonium sites, and several related buildings and portions of sanitary sewer and storm drain lines as shown on Figure 1.

While the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Water Board share regulatory oversight of cleanup at TI, the DTSC is the State lead agency responsible for engaging other State agencies that may have jurisdiction. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is the State lead regulatory agency for assessing radiological risks to public health and safety. Our role with radiological contamination centers on evaluating and abating potential impacts to water quality and threats to beneficial uses of water.

In 2001, Regional Water Board staff concurred with the Navy's request to determine that groundwater is not a drinking water source; they found that groundwater at Treasure Island met exception criteria of the State and Regional Water Board's *Potential Sources of Drinking Water Policies* (Resolution Nos. 88-63 and 89-039). Our concurrence was based on existing groundwater salinity and the potential for further saline water intrusion if groundwater were to be pumped from supply wells for beneficial use. Based on several years of groundwater quality monitoring, we conclude there are no significant radiological threats to groundwater or surface water beneficial uses.

In 2006, the Navy submitted a Historical Radiological Assessment to evaluate potential radiological hazards at TI. The purpose of the assessment was to designate sites as radiologically impacted or not. The report defines an impacted site as one that has, or had, the potential for radioactive contamination based on historical information, in excess of natural background or fallout levels.

In 2007, as part of its non-radiological chemical investigations, the Navy found several low-level radiological objects during excavation of the Solid Waste Disposal Areas (SWDAs). This area was also the location of former Navy housing that had been leased to the public after the Naval Station was closed in 1997.

Based on the SWDA findings, additional research was warranted to further understand the potential extent of radiological materials disposal within the SWDAs. In July 2014, the Navy submitted a supplemental Historical Radiological Assessment Technical Memorandum to

augment the 2006 assessment. A key finding of the update was to expand the list of potential radiologically-impacted areas to include the entire TI housing area as shown on Figure 1. Since then, the Navy has canceled leases and closed the housing, and has conducted further investigations and excavations in the expanded SWDA areas. That work continues today.

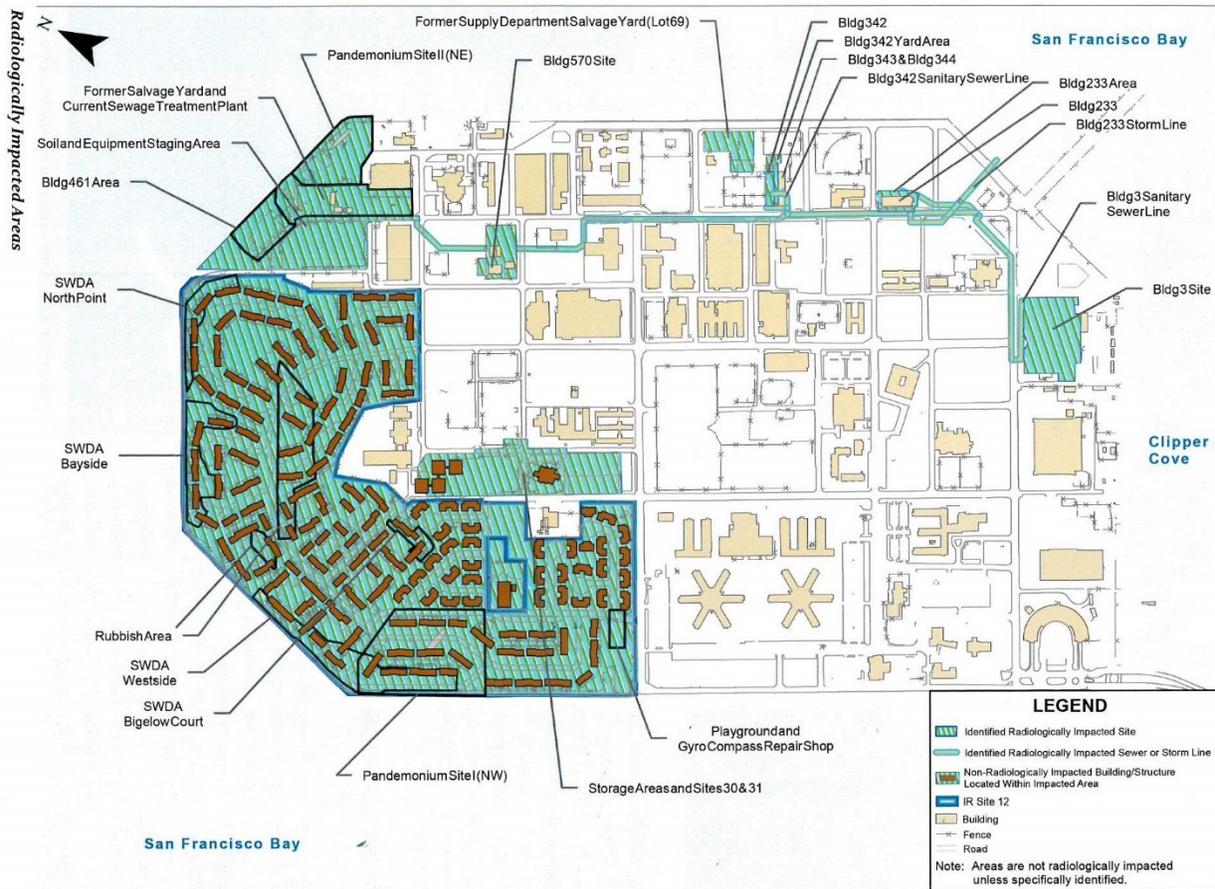


Figure 1. Naval Station Treasure Island – Radiologically Impacted Sites (Sept. 2014 Navy Fact Sheet)

At the Navy's community Restoration Advisory Board meeting held on March 26, 2019, the Navy released an [official statement](#) that radiological work done on TI is reliable and that there is no risk to public health and safety. At the same time, DTSC and CDPH are conducting their own evaluation of the validity and reliability of the radiological testing data to determine if additional testing or re-scanning should occur. We will continue to follow this issue and evaluate how any new information could affect our previous conclusions about water quality and beneficial use impacts.

Workshop on Living Shorelines and Resilience in the San Francisco Bay Area (Xavier Fernandez)

On March 1, Xavier Fernandez participated in a workshop on living shorelines and climate change resiliency. Attendees included environmental groups, consultants, academic institutions, and government agencies, including many local agencies such as Port of San Francisco and East Bay Regional Park District. Xavier provided a regulatory perspective on a panel discussion of living shorelines. Overall, the workshop was well received and stimulated discussions between the stakeholder groups on overcoming institutional inertia and technical challenges with implementing living shoreline projects.

Marin County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Workshop (Xavier Fernandez)

On March 21, Xavier Fernandez attended a workshop on sea level rise adaptation in Marin County. Attendees included environmental groups, consultants, academic institutions, and government agencies. Presentations were given by various Marin County agencies, their consultants, and local environments groups. Topics included seawall and levee projects to protect communities as well as reconnecting creeks to marshes and beneficial reuse of sediment to protect eroding and drowning marshes.

Vapor Intrusion Mitigation at Treat Cleaners in Concord (David Tanouye)

The Treat Cleaners site is located at the Treat Plaza shopping center in a mixed commercial/residential area of Concord. The site consists of a single story, eight-suite retail building where a former dry cleaner operated from the early 1990s to 2014. Environmental investigations have been conducted since 2015 to assess the threat to human health and the environment associated with contamination at the site. Tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in indoor air samples in the vacant dry cleaner suite and in the adjacent tenant suite occupied by Family Spa. Concentrations exceeded our commercial/industrial screening levels (chronic) for indoor air. Soil, soil vapor, and groundwater have also been affected by PCE contamination at the site.

Last summer we approved implementation of an active vapor intrusion mitigation system (VIMS) for which the property owner has recently received authorization from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to operate. The system is now up and running.

The mitigation approach retrofits the existing building to address the threat to current and future building occupants. Vapor intrusion mitigation was a high priority due to the existing exposure concern in the adjacent occupied suite.

A communication test was conducted as a first step to estimate the radius of influence for sub-slab depressurization (SSD). The results indicated that multiple extraction lengths along the dividing wall would provide adequate coverage to mitigate indoor air concerns in the adjacent Family Spa. The final design of the SSD system required trenching in the former dry

cleaner suite to install the associated piping and create a consistent vacuum beneath the concrete slab (Figure 1).



Indoor air sampling will be performed quarterly to evaluate the effectiveness of the SSD system. Pending favorable indoor air sampling results, we will require a longer term operation, maintenance, and monitoring plan to ensure the ongoing protectiveness of the VIMS. If the VIMS does not adequately mitigate indoor air concerns system expansion may be needed.

Meanwhile, efforts will continue toward delineating the extent of contamination in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater and evaluating remedial options. We will keep the Board informed of ongoing progress at this site.

Staff Presentations

On March 19, Nicole Fry presented in San Diego at the Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air organized by the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS conference). She provided an overview of our region's Environmental Screening Levels during the Regulatory Programs and Policies Session of the conference. Her presentation explained that the updated vapor intrusion screening levels are designed to be used during initial risk assessments when there is little information about a site. However, as more information is gathered, more accurate calculations of a site's specific vapor intrusion risk can be calculated based on site-specific sampling data. The AEHS conference is a key venue for environmental professionals to exchange information on technological advances, new science, and environmental regulatory programs. It has been a valuable forum for Board staff to publicize our own cleanup-program activities and gain insight into still-unresolved cleanup issues.

On February 13, Ross Steenson of the Groundwater Protection Division presented at a San Francisco Bar Association event as part of a panel providing perspectives on changes to vapor intrusion (VI) regulatory guidance in California. Other speakers included Claudio Sorrentino of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Peter Scaramella of the consulting

firm GSI Environmental. Ross discussed the upcoming Cal/EPA Supplemental VI Guidance, our office's Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs), and the pending update to our office's Vapor Intrusion Framework guidance. Questions from the audience mainly focused on site-specific vapor intrusion assessment and long-term site management.

On February 20 and 21, Ross Steenson participated in a petroleum biodegradation research meeting co-hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Chevron. The purpose was to share findings from recent research performed at the National Crude Oil Spill Research Site in Bemidji, Minnesota and to discuss potential future research topics. Ross was invited by the USGS because of his knowledge regarding the toxicity of petroleum biodegradation metabolites; he presented "Guidance on Petroleum Metabolites," which concluded with developing a list of future research topics. Of the approximately 35 participants, the entities represented included Chevron and consultants, the American Petroleum Institute, Shell, ExxonMobil, BP, and the USGS Bemidji research team and its researchers from the University of New Orleans and University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) along with members of the USGS toxicity testing lab (Missouri). Regulatory agency participants included Ross, Uta Hellmann-Blumberg (toxicologist with DTSC), and Chris Marks (biochemist with USEPA).

Also, on February 21, Ross Steenson presented as one of six trainers during an online training course for the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)'s guidance "Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) Risk Evaluation at Petroleum-Contaminated Sites." Ross presented "Environmental Fate of TPH." ITRC estimates about 400 persons participated worldwide. Additional trainings are scheduled for June, September and December 2019. Ross and David Elias of the Groundwater Protection Division participated in the team that developed the guidance, which was finalized November 2018. ITRC is a public-private coalition working to encourage the use of innovative environmental technologies to reduce compliance costs and maximize cleanup efficacy. ITRC produces documents and training that broaden and deepen technical knowledge and expedite quality regulatory decision making while protecting human health and the environment. For more information you can visit itrcweb.org.

On February 25 and 27, Alec Naugle, and Ross Steenson of the Groundwater Protection Division and Cheryl Prowell of the Toxics Cleanup Division, participated in the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) conference. Under the CUPA program, Cal/EPA has certified 83 local government agencies to implement hazardous waste and hazardous materials management laws in a consistent fashion. The annual CUPA conference allows State and local agencies to share new information. Staff gave three presentations in conjunction with DTSC staff as follows:

- Updating the Low Threat Assessment Tool to Case Management Tool (Alec)
- Cal/EPA Supplemental VI Guidance: A Consensus Approach to Managing and Evaluating VI Risk for Building Occupants (Cheryl and Dan Gallagher of DTSC)
- Risk Assessment for Complex Petroleum Sites (Ross) and Petroleum Metabolites During Biodegradation (Uta Hellmann-Blumberg of DTSC)

There was considerable interest by local agency staff regarding the VI topic, which dominated the conference's cleanup track. A developer attending the conference expressed concern about Cal/EPA VI guidance's recommendation to employ more stringent screening levels, which would potentially require more cleanup and mitigation, and would cause developers to walk away from redeveloping former industrial sites at a time when there is a housing shortage. Some local agency regulators stated that there would need to be regulations to compel use of the more stringent screening levels.

Water Board and DTSC staff attended the government-only Cleanup Roundtable at the CUPA conference. State Board staff encouraged state and local agency cleanup case managers to identify good candidates for the State Board's Site Cleanup Subaccount grant funding program. Local agency staff discussed Assembly Bill 432 (Quirk) that would allow State Board to certify Local Oversight Program agencies for primary regulatory oversight of Site Cleanup Program cases. Discussion of the pending Cal/EPA Supplemental VI Guidance centered on the training for all regulatory agency staff and potential impacts associated with guidance implementation (e.g., increased sampling and more cleanup and mitigation). The latter discussion featured a range of responses on balancing the need to protect human health while acknowledging the increased cost and burden.

On March 1, at the request of the East Bay Leadership Council's Environmental and Manufacturing Task Force, Ross Steenson gave a regulatory update focused on groundwater programs, but also included information pertinent to the Planning, Wastewater/NPDES, and Watershed Divisions. Participants included the manufacturing sector (e.g., Marathon refinery), engineering consultants, attorneys, and other businesses. The Council's mission is to advocate on public policy issues affecting the economic vitality and quality of life in the East Bay.

In-house Training

In February, our training covered site inspections, which we undertake to document compliance (and sometimes lack thereof). We discussed skills and knowledge required for all phases of effective inspections. The training covered preparation, on-site interviews, photography, sampling, and most importantly, clear and complete documentation back at our desks after the inspection. We learned why and how each of our Divisions conduct inspections so that we can better support cross-division inspection needs. This training was organized by the Toxics Division (Celina Hernandez and Kevin Brown).

In March, our training covered water quality chemistry and bio-chemistry. Speakers were from our staff (Ross Steenson and Lindsay Whalin), San Francisco Estuary Institute (Dave Senn, Don Yee, and Melissa Foley), United States Geological Survey (Robin Stewart), and 5 Gyres (Carolyn Box). The speakers reviewed information about organics and solvents in groundwater, mercury, nutrients, hydrophobic halogen substituted organic compounds (e.g., PCBs), emerging contaminants (e.g., PFOS), and microplastics, respectively. Each speaker explained how chemical properties affect pollutant movement through the environment, toxicity of breakdown products, monitoring challenges, and selection of remedial action at contaminated sites. This training was organized by the Watershed Division (Dale Bowyer).

Our next two trainings are on stream restoration. The first one will include presentations in-house, and the second will include visits to field sites in May.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Abigail Smith)

The table below lists applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from February 15, 2019 through March 11, 2019. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement SR 84-Post Mile 13-13.6-Ea04-I6030	Fremont	Alameda	
Niles Canyon Safety Improvement State Route 84	Fremont		
Trestle Glen Creek Bank Stabilization	Piedmont		
Pittsburg Marina and Shoreline Maintenance Dredging	Pittsburg	Contra Costa	✓
USS-POSCO Fender System Repairs	Pittsburg		✓
Chevron Application for USACE Maintenance Dredging Permit	Richmond		✓
Marsh Restoration as Mitigation for the McGlashan Multiuse Path Project	Mill Valley	Marin	✓
Grant Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation	Novato		
Olive Avenue Widening	Novato		
Installation of Rip Rap at 130 Sir Francis Drake Blvd San Anselmo	San Anselmo		
Bel Marin Keys Unit V Property Levee Breach Emergency Repair	Unincorporated		✓
Construction of New High School By the Napa County Office of Education Community School	Napa	Napa	
Third Avenue Bridge LOP 209 Repair	Napa		
Manley Lane Culvert LOP 235 Repair	Rutherford		
PG&E East Harbor Marina Sediment Sampling	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
Replacement of Gangways with Floating Docks at the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation	San Francisco		✓
Sea Scout Base-Alterations to Trestle and Pilings	San Francisco		✓
Loess Creek Invasive Weed Removal and Slope Repair	Half Moon Bay	San Mateo	
Sediment Removal from Culvert Located within the boundaries of the Lexington Quarry	Los Gatos	Santa Clara	

Implementation of a Variety of Activities Included in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan	Morgan Hill		
AMPORTS Benicia Marine Terminal Wharf Repair	Benicia	Solano	✓
Repair of Gas Line 21-G at 2100 S McDowell Blvd	Petaluma	Sonoma	✓
Steamboat Slough Emergency Levee Breach Repair	Unincorporated		✓