

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

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2020

**ITEM: 4**

**Executive Officer's Report**

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**Union Point Park and Union Point Marina Homelessness Issues (Derek Beauduy)**

We recently received complaints of discharges associated with homelessness in the vicinity of Union Point Park and Union Point Marina in Oakland. These complaints, similar to those received regarding other unsheltered populations in the Bay Area, included reports of trash discharges, RVs dumping sanitary waste to the street, and boats illegally anchored in the marina. One of the complainants was BCDC, which has worked with the City of Oakland (City) to prioritize response work at the park and marina.

We have been engaged with municipal staff across the Bay Area to address discharges associated with homelessness. These include discharges of trash and sanitary waste, as well as consideration of drinking water and sanitation needs in light of the [State's recognition of a human right to water](#). Homelessness has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also limiting municipal resources available to address it. Further, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued [guidance to limit disruption of unsheltered communities](#) to help reduce COVID's impacts to and spread among these vulnerable members of our community.

Watershed Management Division staff regularly work with municipal stormwater staff in response to these types of notifications. Our usual process when we get a complaint is to notify municipal stormwater staff of the complaint, have them investigate and report back to us once measures have been taken to cease any discharges that could result in water quality impacts, and coordinate with them as needed to help resolve the issue.

Oakland is one of the cities most impacted by homelessness in our region and is expending significant resources to address the issue. For context, [Alameda County's 2019 point-in-time survey](#) of homeless individuals found that of the 6,312 people experiencing homelessness in the County, 4,071 were in Oakland. This represented an increase of about 50% over 2017, similar to increases seen elsewhere in the Bay Area. The City has finite resources to address these significant challenges and, as a result, prioritizes response actions across the City. City staff informed us that even though the Union Point Park encampments have received much public scrutiny, there are a number of larger encampments in the City that exhibit more significant health and safety concerns. To address the trash and sanitation needs of the Union Point Park encampment, the City placed a dumpster that is serviced weekly, and maintains wash stations and additional health and hygiene services. Outreach teams visit the encampment regularly to distribute harm reduction kits, working to establish relationships with encampment members to encourage the acceptance of emergency shelter or interim housing offers. At the behest of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the City took additional actions to prioritize services to and clear an encampment in the park's northern portion by November 15, 2020. City staff's communication with the encampment residents in advance of the planned actions resulted in residents voluntarily relocating or accepting service provisions

The City has been taking actions to address these challenges more broadly, including surveying Oakland residents regarding potential solutions and, in October 2020,

enacting a new [Encampment Management Policy](#) that will go into effect in January 2021. This policy designates encampment areas as high or low sensitivity based on factors such as their proximity to schools, residences, businesses, parks, and protected waterways, and prioritizes keeping high-sensitivity areas free of encampments. The policy will prohibit grey or black water dumping. In addition, City staff are currently evaluating locations to implement RV sanitary waste dump stations. Mobile pump-out services for RVs were recently assessed by City staff, but they found that due to the age and condition of many of the RVs parked on Oakland streets, they likely could not be serviced with mobile pumping equipment. This finding was consistent with the experience of other Bay Area municipalities that mobile pump-out services could be effective, but only for a limited portion of RVs, depending on the RVs' age and condition.

We will continue to engage with Bay Area municipalities, including the City, in an effort to address and minimize water quality impacts associated with homelessness.

### **Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards**

In November, two of our Section Leader's received CalHR's Sustained Superior Accomplishment awards for 2020. This award falls under the Merit Award Program and requires a 24-month evaluation period. John Wolfenden, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, and Robert Schlipf, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, were nominated for this award due to their exceptional contributions to the efficiency of state government.

On top of John Wolfenden's day job where he oversees a section with 5 direct reports within the Toxics Cleanup Division, John volunteers his time ensuring the implementation of the managers training program. Among other valuable tasks, he puts together performance management presentations, analyzes employee engagement results and assists with preparing our Workforce Plan. Some of the benefits our office receives from his outstanding work are a high-quality management team, improved staff retention, and the ability to serve as a model to other agencies.

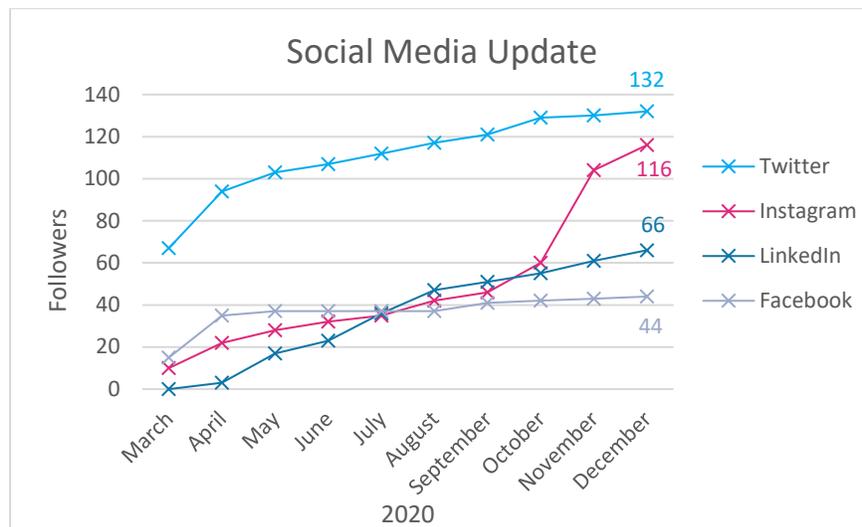
The NPDES program has benefitted immensely from Robert Schlipf's dedication. Under his leadership, Region 2 reissues about 15 permits per year and consistently achieves its NPDES permit issuance performance targets. Region 2's low permit backlog is the envy of the State. In addition, Robert played a key role in drafting innovative, multi-discharger "watershed" permits that greatly streamline the permitting process for nutrients, mercury, and PCBs. The benefits of these permits have resonated outside of our region as they are recognized as creative solutions to very complex challenges. He also provides critical technical support for our Consent Decree with East Bay Municipal Utility District and various satellite collection systems.

The Regional Water Board is fortunate to have two Sustained Superior Accomplishment award recipients. Please join us in congratulating both John Wolfenden and Robert Schlipf for their contributions.

### Social Media and Website Update (Debbie Phan)

Since our last social media update in the [August 2020 Executive Officer Report](#), our audience has grown 48 percent across our various Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Our Twitter page continues to engage the largest audience, with tweets now reaching over 1,000 views. We continue to provide a diverse array of content on all our platforms, such as updates on enforcement actions, restoration work, and job availabilities. It has also been a great way to publicize trainings that are accessible to the public, especially when Water Board staff are presenting.

As we become more comfortable with our digital voice, we have started to introduce new initiatives. We've identified and connected with additional agencies, streamlined internal content submittal procedures, and developed ways to engage with our audience. Most notably, our Instagram saw a substantial increase in followers after the introduction of our Fun Fact Friday in October, where we present a weekly trivia question. Our social media liaisons work with State Water Board when responding to comments to ensure transparency while maintaining a unified front with our partner agencies.



We are enthusiastic to enter 2021 with a burgeoning social media presence and an increasing understanding of how to connect with our audience. To see what is happening now, check out the following:

- [Twitter.com/SFBayWaterBoard](https://twitter.com/SFBayWaterBoard)
- [Instagram.com/SFBayWaterBoard](https://www.instagram.com/SFBayWaterBoard)
- [Facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayWaterBoard](https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayWaterBoard)
- [Linkedin.com/company/San-Francisco-Bay-Water-Quality-Control-Board](https://www.linkedin.com/company/San-Francisco-Bay-Water-Quality-Control-Board)

Website updates have been put on hold as the Division of Information Technology has been redirected to assist with telework efforts, such as the distribution of state-issued laptops to staff, VPN management, and creation of SharePoint sites to assist with document storage and sharing. Our hope is to return to this effort in 2021.

**December 2020 Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and Jessica Watkins)**

The following table shows the settled enforcement actions since November's report. In addition, enforcement actions are available on our website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public\\_notices/pending\\_enforcement.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml)

**Settled Actions**

On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following:

<b>Discharger</b>	<b>Violation(s)</b>	<b>Imposed Penalty<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Supplemental Environmental Project</b>
Cities of South San Francisco and San Bruno and North Bayside System Unit	Discharge limit violation.	\$3,000	None.
Rodeo Sanitary District	Discharge limit violations.	\$12,000	None.
C&H Sugar Company, Inc. and Crockett Community Services District	Discharge limit violations.	\$6,000	None.
Hanson Aggregates, Mid-Pacific Inc., Oakland Tidewater Sand Yard	Discharge limit violation.	\$3,000	None.
Hanson Aggregates, Mid-Pacific Inc., San Francisco Pier 92 Sand Yard	Discharge limit violations.	\$3,000	None.
Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin	Discharge limit violation.	\$3,000	None.
City of Petaluma	Discharge limit violation.	\$3,000	None.
City of Pinole	Discharge limit violation.	\$3,000	None.

<sup>1</sup> All \$36,000 in penalties to supplement Regional Monitoring Program studies. The Regional Monitoring Program is managed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute to collect water quality information in support of management decisions to restore and protect beneficial uses of the Region's waters.

**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 October 14, 2020 through November 24, 2020. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>City/Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>May have BCDC Jurisdiction</b>
Zone 6 Line C Channel Bank Repair	Fremont	Alameda	✓
Oakland Athletic Rowing Society Livingston Street Pier Dock Installation	Oakland	Alameda	✓
100 Sir Francis Drake Blvd	Ross	Marin	
350 Merrydale Road	San Rafael	Marin	
Richardson Bay Marina	Sausalito	Marin	✓
1 Kirkland Ranch Road	Napa	Napa	
2800 Main Street Napa	Napa	Napa	
Napa Co Jail-Pedestrian Bike Path and Bridge	Napa	Napa	
Mission Rock Development China Basin Park	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
Pier 39-43 1/2 Hydrodynamic Study	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
SF Ferry Terminal Gate B Allision Repair	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
Redwood City South Main	Redwood City	San Mateo	✓
Creek Bank Restoration on Stevens Creek at 10500 Creston Drive	Los Altos	Santa Clara	