

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Debbie Phan)  
MEETING DATE: October 14, 2020

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: **2020 Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award** - Presentation of Award to City of Berkeley

CHRONOLOGY: See Appendix A

DISCUSSION: This item is the presentation of the 2020 Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to the City of Berkeley for passing its Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance. Food and beverage packaging make up about 67 percent of trash on the street and have been an issue in stormwater trash management. Bay Area municipalities reported spending over \$50 million for on-land trash controls in the past 10 years, including litter controls, on-land cleanups, dumping prevention and abatement, and public education. In addition, take-out containers have been linked to microplastics and contain contaminants of emerging concern, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Reducing the use and disposal of single use foodware, including cups, lids, utensils, straws, clamshells, and other disposables will reduce discharges of trash and contaminants of emerging concern in stormwater and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The City implemented the ordinance in three phases from 2019 to 2020:

- Phase 1 requires food vendors to offer accessory disposable foodware only when requested or at self-serve stations, and to provide receptacles for trash, recycle, and compost.
- Phase 2 requires all disposable foodware to be certified compostable and free of intentionally added fluorinated chemicals and requires food vendors to charge for each disposable beverage cup.
- Phase 3 requires food vendors to use only reusable foodware for onsite dining, with a few exceptions, such as napkins and foil.

With this award, we recognize that many types of pollution require significant consumer behavior change to reduce pollution at its source. Such change is hard to achieve. Fortunately, the City is showing us a path away from being a “disposable society.”

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**  
**Past Pollution Prevention Award Recipients**

<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
2015	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	Leading a campaign against flushing disposable wipes
2016	City of San Jose	Innovative outreach campaigns
2017	Melody LaBella and Karin North	Numerous projects to reduce wastewater pollution
2018	Ann Joseph	Promoting integrated pest management in retail
2019	Geoff Brosseau	Reducing stormwater pollution throughout California