

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Jan O'Hara
MEETING DATE: May 12, 2021

ITEM: 9

PCBs TMDL Implementation – Status Update

DISCUSSION:

This item will include a presentation by staff on the status of actions to implement the San Francisco Bay Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) adopted by the Board in 2008. The TMDL implementation plan requires municipalities, industry, and others to take action to reduce PCBs in discharges from external sources to the Bay and to appropriately remediate in-Bay PCB-contaminated sites.

PCBs are oils to which chlorine has been added to keep them from breaking down in industrial applications. Because PCBs are stable at high temperatures, they had numerous industrial uses beginning in the 1920s, and they were widely used in military and industrial operations around San Francisco Bay. They were also extensively used in building materials (paints and caulking) and road infrastructure (expansion joints). High levels of PCBs in San Francisco Bay fish prompted health officials to advise the public to limit their consumption of Bay fish beginning in the mid-1990s.

The presentation will summarize ongoing work to control PCBs in urban stormwater discharges, clean-up of on-land PCBs contaminated, and remediation of in-Bay PCB-contaminated sites. The [March 2021 Executive Officer's Report](#) summarized the status of compliance with PCB limits in NPDES permits issued to municipal and industrial wastewater discharges, which have low levels and loads of PCBs compared to urban stormwater discharges, and that information will not be repeated in this presentation.