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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Ross Steenson MEETING DATE: February 9, 2022

ITEM: 8.B

Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Port of San Francisco, Pier 39 to Pier 43½ Sediment Remediation Project, San Francisco – Adoption of tentative Site Cleanup Requirements

DISCUSSION

The attached Tentative Order (Appendix A) serves as Site Cleanup Requirements for the Pier 39 to Pier 43½ Sediment Remediation Project (Project). Adoption of the Tentative Order is dependent on adoption of the tentative resolution to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project (Agenda Item 8.A).

The Tentative Order approves the <u>Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan</u> (FS/RAP) and requires remediation of sediment contamination in a portion of the northern San Francisco waterfront that poses unacceptable risk to ecological and human receptors. A general project description can be found in the Staff Summary Report for Agenda Item 8.A.

Additional documentation in this package includes the Responses to Comments (Appendix B). No changes to the FS/RAP were deemed necessary based on staff review of the comments. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the Port of San Francisco have indicated acceptance of the Project.

COMMENTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND STAFF RESPONSES

The FS/RAP was released for a 30-day public review on October 20, 2021. We received comments from <u>Aquarium of the Bay</u>, a <u>private citizen</u>, and the <u>Red and White Fleet San Francisco Bay Cruises</u>. The full response to comments is included as Appendix B. The comments and responses are summarized herein.

Aquarium of the Bay expressed concern about potential impacts to water quality at their intake pipe located outside of the Pier 39 Marina East Harbor due to disturbance of contaminated sediment during dredging. Our response is that there is little risk to water quality at the intake pipe and that the Port and PG&E will keep the Port's tenants, including Aquarium of the Bay, informed regarding the implementation schedule and will coordinate before implementation.

The private citizen asked whether drying on barges had been evaluated as an alternative to taking contaminated sediment from northern waterfront and drying it at Pier 96, which is in Bayview Hunters Point, an environmental justice community. Our response is that a system of barges was evaluated for processing of dredged materials over water, but was considered infeasible based on logistical considerations, permitting challenges, and safety issues.

Red and White San Francisco Bay Cruises expressed concern about potential liability for the Port of San Francisco's tenants if a tenant's routine vessel and operational activities or improvements were to disturb contaminated sediment left in place. Our response is that the remediation is designed to

prevent future disturbances of contaminated sediment and that we, the Port, or PGE will notify tenants of the locations and depths of remaining contamination, on how to prevent the cap from being disturbed, and on PG&E's risk management and monitoring plan required by the Site Cleanup Requirements.

The Tentative Order was released for a 30-day public review on November 17, 2021. No comments were received. However, minor modifications to the Tentative Order were made to reflect reference to the MMRP.

APPENDICES

- A. Revised Tentative Order (Site Cleanup Requirements)
- B. Responses to Comments

Appendix A Revised Tentative Order (Site Cleanup Requirements)

Appendix B Responses to Comments