

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

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2022

Item: 4

Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer's Report June 1, 2022

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Staff Presentation on Recycled Water (Melissa Gunter)

On May 11, Melissa Gunter (Watershed Management Division) presented on recycled water in the San Francisco Bay Region and State level to representatives from EPA Region 9, Hawaii Department of Health, and the [Hawai'i Community Foundation](#) at the EPA Region 9 office. The Hawaii Department of Health is working on setting up a recycled water program based on expanding interest in water reuse and were interested in discussing how the Regional Water Board regulates facilities that produce recycled water. One of the Department of Health's water protection goals as stated in the [2019 Water Quality Plan](#) is to increase water reuse statewide. The Hawai'i Community Foundation's Wai Maoli Hawai'i [Fresh Water Initiative](#) includes groundwater recharge and water reuse as targets to achieve water security.

The presentation covered topics such as recycled water treatment, uses, and project types, the [Recycled Water Policy](#), and results of the statewide volumetric reporting of wastewater and recycled water produced (see Figure 1). The presentation also addressed permitting approaches and regulatory mechanisms such as the California Code of Regulations Title 22 Water Recycling Criteria, and [Senate Bill 966](#), which requires that the State Water Board develop regulations for risk-based water quality standards for the onsite treatment and reuse of various water sources for non-potable uses. Funding sources, such as the newly allocated Budget Act of 2021 for Groundwater Cleanup and Water Recycling projects, and water recycling challenges and solutions were also highlighted. Topics of discussion that may lead to future collaborations included onsite treatment and reuse, reverse osmosis concentrate management, groundwater recharge, and direct potable reuse. Many of the topics discussed built upon the [September 2020 Staff Summary Report](#).

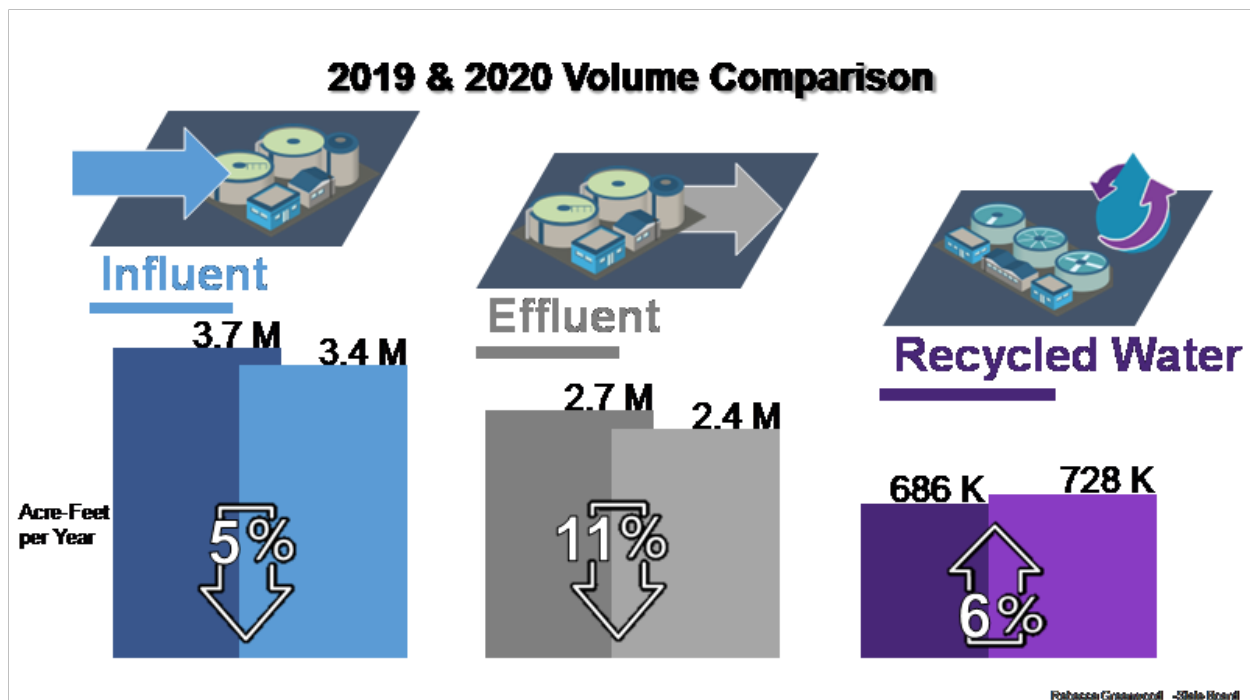


Figure 1: 2019 and 2020 wastewater and recycled water volume comparison

In-house Training (Carrie Austin)

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were pleased to venture out to the field to see our work. Jacob Henry (main organizer), Yemia Hashimoto (MC), David Elias (Section Lead) from the Groundwater Division, and Brian Wines (Engineer) and Agnes Farres (Senior Environmental Scientist) from the Watershed Division took us to Alameda Point. This is the former Alameda Naval Air Station that operated from 1947 and closed in 1997.

The field trip covered many aspects of our work: municipal solid waste landfill and Bay fill, a range of contaminants (radiation, fuels, solvents, PCBs, and many mixed wastes), several contaminated media (sediment, soil, and groundwater), urban stormwater runoff, and wetlands restoration.

We observed several project areas starting with the [Seaplane Lagoon](#) where cleanup was accomplished by dredging sediments contaminated with PCB and radiation. We next walked around the redeveloped ferry parking lot and residential areas to observe stormwater management. The stormwater best management practices were not only review of architectural designs and seeing their mature installation, but discussion of the human factor. In this case, pleasing aesthetics leverages the human factor of appreciation and careful maintenance.



Brian Wines talking to staff and Board Member Hacker about the vegetated stormwater treatment and infiltration ponds. Here the landscape architect has installed a variety of amenities (e.g., benches at left), shapes (the path meanders past different shapes and sizes rather than narrow rectangles), and great variety of handsome vegetation. These pleasing aesthetics yield more careful maintenance. Photo by Cleet Carlton.

The United States Navy provided us with access past two locked gates to the tip of Alameda Point. We observed municipal solid waste landfill at the edge of the Bay and several cleanup sites. We learned that historically freshwater wetlands also existed at the edge of the Bay, and some are established here. Willows in one of these freshwater wetlands provide habitat for predators of the endangered Least tern. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is requiring that willows be removed to protect the Least tern breeding colony.

Many breeding birds are a testament to effectiveness of site cleanup and wetlands restoration. On our drive out to the tip a Caspian tern flew overhead with a fish in its bill, and throughout the field trip many Caspian terns flew overhead on their way to and from fishing in the Bay. Also on our drive out to the tip, we passed by a colony of about 2,000 nesting seagulls.



At the tip of Alameda Point, nesting seagulls and metal sheeting at edge of landfill. Photo by Cleet Carlton.

Bird breeding is so successful that our route and stops had to be reorganized twice in the weeks leading up to the field trip. Breeding California Least terns on a former runway meant that we could not access Veterans' Affairs owned property but instead peered through the chain link fence and saw a heron building its nest in a cypress tree.

We will now take a summer break from training. It has been my (Carrie's) pleasure to serve as chairperson of this committee for the last several years because I think these trainings demonstrate our office's commitment to professional development and keeping on the cutting edge of technical advancements. Happily, I will be retired before the office resumes In-house Training sessions in the fall.



Staff of the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board at the tip of Alameda Point, May 2022.

Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and Jessica Watkins)

The following table shows the proposed enforcement action since May's report. As the proposed settlement is pending and could come before the Regional Water Board, ex parte communications are not allowed. Please refer to the [Pending Enforcement Liabilities and Penalties](#) webpage for more information on the details of the alleged violations and proposed settlement.

Proposed Settlement

The following is noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comment is received by the deadline, the Executive Officer will sign an order implementing the settlement.

| Discharger | Violation(s) | Proposed Penalty | Comment Deadline |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mission Valley Rock Co., LLC | Unauthorized discharge of 41,000 gallons of sediment-laden process wastewater to waters of the United States. | \$368,940 ¹ | June 23, 2022 |

¹ The penalty includes \$184,470 to fund a Regional Monitoring Program project named "High-Speed Mapping of Water Quality Parameters on the Eastern Shoal of South San Francisco Bay." 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 April 19 through May 10, 2022. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

| Project Name | City/Location | County | May have BCDC Jurisdiction |
|---|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Crow Canyon Road Retaining Walls Installation | Castro Valley | Alameda | |
| Oakport Pipeline Span Recoat | Oakland | Alameda | ✓ |
| San Pablo Creek Step Pools Restoration | Orinda | Contra Costa | |
| Marin Country Club Arroyo San Jose Site 4A Spillway Retrofit Bridge Replacement | Novato | Marin | |
| Point Tiburon Lagoon Cleaning and Maintenance | Tiburon | Marin | ✓ |
| 2022 Outside East Harbor and East Harbor Sediment Sampling | San Francisco | San Francisco | ✓ |
| Coyote Point Marina Guide Pile Replacement | San Mateo | San Mateo | ✓ |
| Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates Refurbishment | Unincorporated | Solano | ✓ |
| Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility Outfall Relocation | Petaluma | Sonoma | ✓ |
| San Antonio Creek Bridge Scour Mitigation Project 101 PM 0.01 | Unincorporated | Sonoma | |