

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

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Executive Officer's Report

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Alameda County Water District Receives \$2.2 Million Grant for Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Project (Yemia Hashimoto)

On March 6, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board awarded a \$2,205,094 grant to the Alameda County Water District to implement a Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Project (Project) through the [Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program](#). The Project will remove brackish water from the Niles Cone groundwater sub-basin caused by saltwater intrusion from San Francisco Bay and will prevent brackish water from impacting the Mowry Wellfield, which supplies drinking water to Fremont, Newark, Union City, and the southern portion of Hayward. The Project entails property acquisition to install an extraction well and associated infrastructure (pumping equipment, electrical, piping, well head completion).

During the initial start-up and operation phase of the Project, extracted brackish groundwater will be discharged to South San Francisco Bay via flood control channels. This short-term discharge will be covered under the [Statewide Drinking Water System General NPDES Permit](#). While not a part of this Project, the District eventually plans to direct the brackish water to the Newark Desalination Facility to increase the reliability of its drinking water supply. Discharge to South San Francisco Bay from the desalination facility is covered under the [Regional Groundwater General NPDES Permit](#).

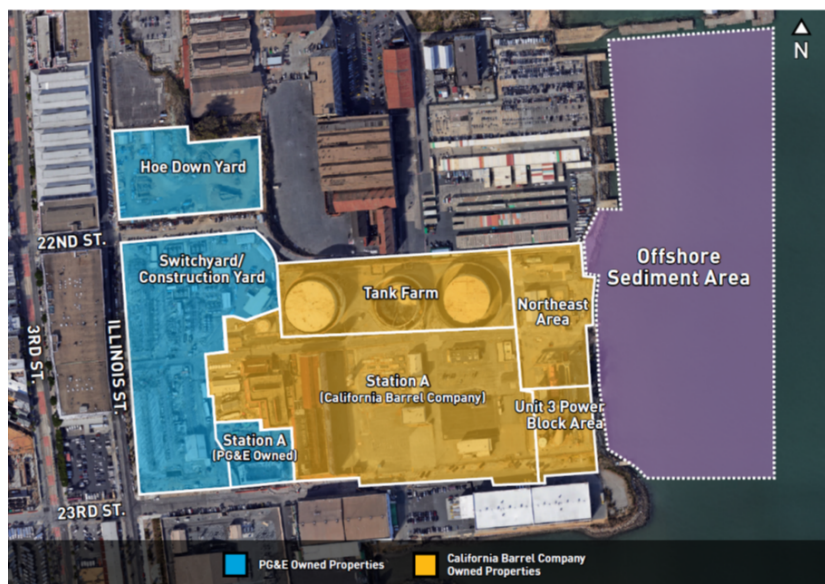
Regional Water Board staff Engineering Geologist Yemia Hashimoto supported the Division of Financial Assistance's technical review of the grant application as part of her role on our Region's Sustainable Groundwater Management Team. Staff technical review of the Project aligns with the organization's goal of collaborating with local agencies and the State Water Board to protect local drinking water supplies. The multi-divisional staff team was formed in 2015 to evaluate the Region's groundwater basins in order to identify groundwater quality concerns, share information with internal and external partners, and selectively use our regulatory tools to control discharges and drive pollutant source identification and abatement.

Remedial Action Complete, Former Potrero Power Plant (Helen Hild)

The Regional Water Board has overseen Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) voluntary investigation and cleanup from the former Potrero Power Plant contamination since 2001. At that time, PG&E requested Regional Water Board oversight under a process known as Site Designation. The 1994 Site Designation law (AB 2061) allows a Responsible Party who agrees to carry out a site investigation and remedial action to request a single oversight agency. It also obligates the agency to issue a Certificate of Completion when the approved remediation plan is fully implemented, even if some actions, such as monitoring or long-term operation and maintenance are ongoing. Pursuant to our notification to the Board of the approval of the final remedy in the September 2020 Executive Officer Report, we have now issued the Certificate of Completion for the former Potrero Power Plant.

The Potrero Power Plant is located along San Francisco's Central Waterfront, in the Potrero/Dogpatch neighborhood (*Figure 1). PG&E operated a manufactured gas plant at the facility, which used coal and oil to produce a form of natural gas, from the 1870s to 1930. The first electric power generating Potrero Power Plant was built in the 1910s and later upgraded and expanded in the 1960s. The power plant was permanently retired in March 2011.

Environmental investigations conducted by PG&E identified subsurface impacts to soil, soil vapor, and groundwater as the result of filling operations, past electric power generation, and manufactured gas generating activities. These impacts include metals; petroleum hydrocarbons; volatile organic compounds, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); polychlorinated biphenyls; and naturally occurring asbestos. Bay sediments adjacent to the facility were also impacted with PAH-containing manufactured gas plant wastes.



Approximate boundaries shown. Map not to scale. * Figure 1

For investigation and remediation planning, the 34-acre onshore area and 22-acre offshore sediment area (collectively "Site") were divided into seven operational areas. Remedial actions were approved and implemented for all seven of the operational areas. Active cleanup operations included soil stabilization in the Northeast Area, removal in the Tank Farm Area, and dredging and capping of the Offshore Sediment Area. Each of the remedies also included the application of land use controls and risk management plans for long-term management of residual pollutants. The risk management plans are living documents used to guide redevelopment activities, and provide an outline for various project elements, such as worker health and safety, notification, and reporting requirements. The seven operational areas have now been closed, and the redevelopment activities are being regulated as part of the property's long-term management work.

From October to December 2022, we held a 60-day public comment period for the issuance of the Certificate of Completion. We received one comment from Supervisor Connie Chan, District 1, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, regarding sea level and groundwater level rise and its effect on remedial activities. As a result, the risk management plans are being updated to include evaluations of sea level and groundwater rise impacts on residual pollutants. We have issued the Certificate of Completion, the last step in the Site Designation process, which marks the end of investigation and remediation at the Site.

The Site is currently in long term management, while the new property owner, California Barrel Company, works on redevelopment of the area. Current plans include turning 29 of the 34 acres of the onshore area into 13 new development blocks. The project will include approximately 2,600 residential units, of which 30 percent will be affordable housing; approximately 1.6 million square feet of commercial space; a hotel; 7 acres of parks, plazas, open spaces, and a roof-top soccer field. Construction will be phased across a 12-year time period beginning in 2023 and ending in 2035. See rendering below.



San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan - Overview (Eileen White)

The Strategic Workplan was developed to provide an overview of what we do and to create transparency about our work to the public we serve. It describes our overarching organizational priorities, and the water quality programs we implement to achieve our mission to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the San Francisco Bay Region's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses.

We have created a two (2) page overview for ease of access and the ability to share across a greater audience in the communities we serve and throughout California. The Strategic Workplan overview includes a synopsis of our organizational priorities and actions with information about obtaining more detail as needed. The overview is attached for your review, is posted on our website accessed via the link below and will be used for public outreach.

waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/2023_Strategic_Workplan.pdf
(note: a link will be available shortly)

Association for Environmental Health and Sciences Foundation Conference Attendance (Sherry Gamboa and Rachelle Lim)

In March 2023, Kevin Brown, Sunny Grunloh, Lauren Kahapea, Sherry Gamboa, and Rachelle Lim from our Toxics Cleanup Division, attended the 32nd Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air organized by the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS) Foundation. The AEHS West Coast Conference is a technical venue to exchange findings, recommendations, and ideas on soil, water, energy, and air assessment, remediation, and regulations. There were over 50 poster presentations, 17 sessions, and 8 workshops on emerging contaminants, remediation technologies, water resources, environmental justice, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation and regulation, vapor intrusion science, and adaptive site management.

In addition to attending up to 12 technical sessions and many poster presentations each day, staff also attended two in-depth workshops. In "*PFAS: From Regulation to Remediation*," Water Board staff gained an understanding of the complexities that PFAS introduce to cleanup sites and current Federal regulations. In "*Two-Phase Extraction, In-well Stripping, Recirculation Methods, and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation: Applications and Enhancements for Groundwater and Soil Remediation*," Water Board staff learned how these remedial technologies should be selected and implemented in the field. In "*Effective Application of ITRC Guidance Documents to Hydrocarbon Sites*," Water Board staff learned how to effectively use nationally accepted guidance to manage hydrocarbon contamination. (ITRC stands for Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council, which is a state-led coalition existing in all 50 states, working to create innovative solutions and best management practices. <https://itrcweb.org/about/about>).

Lisa Horowitz McCann was a panelist in the session "[Environmental Justice Considerations in the Investigation and Remediation Process](#)" which focused on environmental justice initiatives related to groundwater remediation programs and policies. She described our activities and approach to address environmental justice, including our racial equity initiatives, engagement with environmental justice advocates and organizations, evaluation of emerging science and information, reprioritization of our cleanup cases, and current regulatory strategies to push progress or complete cleanup at contaminated sites. She mentioned our priority of environmental justice and racial equity outlined in our [Strategic Workplan](#) and the State Water Board's [Racial Equity Action Plan](#). She explained use of demographic data, information on historical racism, health, and pollution exposure information from sources like [California Environmental Protection Agency's Pollution and Prejudice](#) and [Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen](#) to prioritize cleanup cases. Finally, she discussed use of our regulatory and enforcement authorities to push progress or complete cleanup at contaminated sites.

Staff found the information presented at the conference to be useful and applicable to managing their cleanup cases allowing them to be more effective regulators. The increased focus on PFAS and the imperative to remain current on emerging remedial technologies and practices, made the conference invaluable.

Staff Introductions (Eileen White)

Beginning with this month, we will be sharing our new staff introductions in the Executive Officer Report. Because of our remote work in the field, at homes and communities, our staff are not always able to attend the Board meetings. We want to make sure we can share with you the dynamic team we have wherever they may be located.



Please welcome Mary Snow. She joins the Groundwater Protection Division as an Engineering Geologist. Mary brings several years of experience with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and looks forward to working on Federal Facility Cleanup projects. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Geology and a Master of Science in Applied Geosciences both from San Francisco State University. She was born and raised in San Francisco and was a Water Board intern in 1999-2000. Mary enjoys walking and hiking along the coastal hills and is a crafter, mostly quilting, but has been known to throw a pot or two on a pottery wheel.



Please welcome Dana McCarthy. She joins the Groundwater Protection Division as an Engineering Geologist where she will be overseeing Department of Defense and private site cases. Dana received her Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences at UC Santa Cruz. Early in her career, Dana worked as an environmental consultant on numerous petroleum hydrocarbon cleanup sites. More recently, she managed fast-paced high-resolution site characterization investigations for former dry cleaning sites that received funding from the State of California Site Cleanup Subaccount Program. Dana also has environmental planning experience and served on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency. During her free time, Dana enjoys dancing, being out in nature, admiring artwork, and following the local food and wine scene.



Please welcome Alex Valentine . He joins the Groundwater Protection Division as an Engineering Geologist. Alex has transferred from the Region 7 Water Board (Colorado River Basin), where he also worked within the region's Groundwater Protection Division. Prior to joining the Water Boards, he worked as an environmental consultant for several years on a variety of private and public-sector sites. He received a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Science in Geoscience from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Alex is originally from the Bay Area and has a passion for hiking its extensive trail system. He also enjoys listening to music, watching basketball, and working on cars.



Please congratulate Natlie Lee on her promotion to Environmental Scientist in the NPDES Wastewater and Enforcement Division. She received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at UC Berkeley in 2021 with the hopes of kickstarting a career in environmental protection and management. Luckily for us, Natalie knew where to look, and shortly thereafter, joined the Water Board as a Scientific Aid in the NPDES Wastewater and Enforcement Division.

She will now continue to develop her career as a full-time member of the Division. Her passion lies in environmental justice and seeking ways to improve the shared health and longevity of people and our environment in the face of climate change, starting with her home base—the San Francisco Bay Area. In her new role, she will be involved in managing NPDES permits and assisting with implementing the Water Board's pretreatment and pollution prevention programs. Outside of her environmental interests, Natlie enjoys arts and crafts, discovering new music to put on repeat, finding new food and places to explore with her friends, and curling up on the couch with her two cats for a cozy night in.



Please welcome back Debbie Phan. You may remember her after she helped us for a number of years overseeing NPDES permits and compliance, implementing our pollution prevention program, and leading many of our office-wide fundraising activities. Debbie returns to our NPDES Wastewater and Enforcement Division after doing a two-year stint at the San Diego Water Board, where she led NPDES permitting and collection system inspections and navigated challenging and sometimes contentious permitting issues related to fireworks

shows and shipyard operations. She plans to use the skills she honed in San Diego to provide us additional perspectives that will help us with permitting, inspections, and enforcement. Debbie began her career by obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley and working in the flood maintenance division for the Los Angeles County Public Works Department. During her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, baking, hiking, and spoiling her dog, Luffy (pictured).



Please welcome Shanah Nekbeen. She joins the Management Services Division as a Seasonal Clerk. Shanah is a Bay Area native and is in school for her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology. She has previously worked in customer service and enjoys working with others. Shanah strives to ensure everyone has a positive experience and is passionate about delivering on

expectations. She constantly strives to learn and grow, taking on every challenge with enthusiasm and dedication as she joins the Water Board team and moves forward in her journey here. Shanah also empowers kindness, connection, and collaboration in the workplace, bringing joy, compassion, and respect to her daily routine. Outside of Water Board, Shanah loves to spend time with family and friends and listen to music.

Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and James Parrish)

The following tables show the proposed and settled enforcement actions since last month's report. Because the proposed settlements are pending and could come before the 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 settlements.

Proposed Settlements

The following have been noticed for 30-day public comment periods. If no significant comments are received by the deadlines, the Executive Officer will sign orders implementing these settlements.

Discharger	Violations	Proposed Penalty	Comment Deadline
West County Agency	Effluent Limitation Violations	\$69,000 ¹	April 14, 2023
North San Mateo County Sanitation District	Effluent Limitation Violations	\$210,000 ²	May 1, 2023

¹ Includes \$40,000 for a Supplemental Environmental Project for the KIDS for the BAY Watershed Rangers Program to provide disadvantaged schools in Richmond with trash cleanup projects that raise awareness of watershed health and social behaviors that contribute to non-point source pollution.

² Includes \$112,500 for a Supplemental Environmental Project for green stormwater infrastructure and pedestrian bulb-out at Santa Barbara Avenue and Vista Grande Avenue in Daly City.

Settled Actions

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

Discharger	Violations	Imposed Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
City of St. Helena	Effluent Limitation Violations	\$147,000	none
City and County of San Francisco	Effluent Limitation Violations	\$238,300	\$118,250 ¹

¹ Includes Supplemental Environmental Project for Regional Monitoring Program to study temporal variability in sediment delivery to a North and Central San Francisco Bay salt marsh.

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 February 9 through March 15, 2023. 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
WETA Alameda Main Street (AMS) Ferry Terminal Refurbishment Project	Alameda	Alameda	✓
Palomares Road Mile Markers 4.05 and 4.10	Castro Valley	Alameda	
Ruby Street Apartments Project	Castro Valley	Alameda	
Stivers Lagoon Marsh Restoration Project	Fremont	Alameda	
Delta Dams Rodent Burrow Remediation Project	Livermore	Alameda	
Tehan Canyon Road Storm Repair Project	Pleasanton	Alameda	
Foothill Road Mile Marker 6.58 Storm Damage Repair Project	Sunol	Alameda	
San Leandro Channel Crossing Project, Geotechnical Investigation	Unincorporated	Alameda	✓
Diablo Road Emergency Culvert Repair	Danville	Contra Costa	
Emergency Bank Repair - 1904 Via Ferrari	Lafayette	Contra Costa	
Amorco Marine Terminal MOTEMs Repairs	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Marathon Avon Wharf Berth 1 Demolition	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Pacheco Marsh Public Access	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Group 2 Storm Drain Lining Project	Orinda	Contra Costa	
2023 Winter Storm - Pittsburg Riverview Park and Marina Basin 1 Breakwater Repair	Pittsburg	Contra Costa	✓
65 Round Hill Road, Tiburon	Tiburon	Marin	✓
Roy's Redwoods Restoration	Woodacre	Marin	
2023 San Francisco Bay Regional Dredged Material Management Plan Monitoring Platforms	Pinole, Richmond, Albany, Hayward	Multiple	✓
Mud Slough Emergency Levee Breach Repair Project	Unincorporated	Napa	✓
Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Streamflow Enhancement Project	Pescadero	San Mateo	
Westport Outfall Repairs Project	Redwood City	San Mateo	✓
Coyote Canyon Trails Construction project	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara	
Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot Project	Palo Alto	Santa Clara	✓
Valero Benicia Marine Terminal Dredging	Benicia	Solano	✓
R-708 L-021G Replacement Project	Petaluma	Sonoma	✓
Sonoma County 2023 Pavement Preservation Program Project	Unincorporated	Sonoma	