

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: **Alessandra Moyer**
MEETING DATE: **November 8, 2023**

ITEM: 3

2023 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award – Presentation of Award to Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Pesticides Subcommittee (Stephanie Hughes, Kelly Moran, and Tammy Qualls)

DISCUSSION

This item is the presentation of the 2023 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Pesticides Subcommittee, a working group of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies.

Since its inception, the subcommittee has persistently worked to reduce the impact of pesticides to waters of the United States and subsequent regulatory impacts to municipal wastewater agencies. Because California law generally prevents these agencies from directly regulating the sale, use, and transfer of pesticides, the subcommittee focuses on regulatory advocacy and outreach. Some of the subcommittee's accomplishments include:

- Improved label language on pesticide products that minimize pesticide releases to the environment, including better directions for proper use and disposal. The subcommittee has persistently submitted detailed, scientific-based recommendations to U.S. EPA during its pesticide registration processes, focusing on pathways to waters of the United States, impacts to water quality, and ways to reduce impacts. Because of this input, U.S. EPA has sometimes changed pesticide labeling.
- Advanced tools for decision makers. Based on the subcommittee's recommendations, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has revised its models to predict pesticides pathways and environmental impacts and has initiated programs to monitor pesticides in urban runoff and wastewater.
- Increased public and industry awareness of the pathways between pesticide products (particularly flea and tick products) and water quality through outreach, including presentations and lectures.

Stephanie Hughes, Dr. Kelly Moran, and Tammy Qualls will accept the award on behalf of the subcommittee. They have advised and led the group for over a decade, fostering an environment of collaboration, curiosity, and problem-solving. They serve as generous sources of technical and scientific knowledge, who educate, inspire, and actively establish collaborative networks that improve water quality. Their tenacity has resulted in the kind of progress only possible through sustained effort.

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 an early visionary in pollution prevention. He believed the best way to keep the Bay clean was to keep pollutants from entering wastewater, rather than constructing expensive treatment works to remove them. The annual award in his name recognizes innovation, effectiveness, and collaboration in pollution prevention.

APPENDIX

A. Past Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Appendix A
Past Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Past Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Year	Recipient	Achievement
2007	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group	Mercury reduction education
2007	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
2012	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
2020	City of Berkeley	Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance
2021	California Association of Sanitation Agencies	Advocacy of AB 818: "Do Not Flush" labeling on disposable wipes
2022	San Francisco Department of the Environment	Polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reduction efforts