

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

MEETING DATE: July 10, 2024

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report

ALEXIS STRAUSS HACKER, CHAIR | EILEEN M. WHITE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Executive Officer’s Report June 28, 2024

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San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board's PFAS Webpage (Kimberlee West)

At our May 2024 Board meeting, staff presented about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigations in the Site Cleanup Program. The presentation generated questions about PFAS use, exposure, and health effects. In response, we developed a PFAS webpage (Figure 1) to provide information to the public. The PFAS webpage

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/PFAS.html) is accessible through the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board's main webpage (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>), under "Featured Topics".

The PFAS webpage includes:

- a link to a printable PDF PFAS Fact Sheet,
- answers to common questions that the public may have,
- an explanation of what the Water Board is doing with respect to PFAS, and
- links to other reliable external PFAS resources for more information.

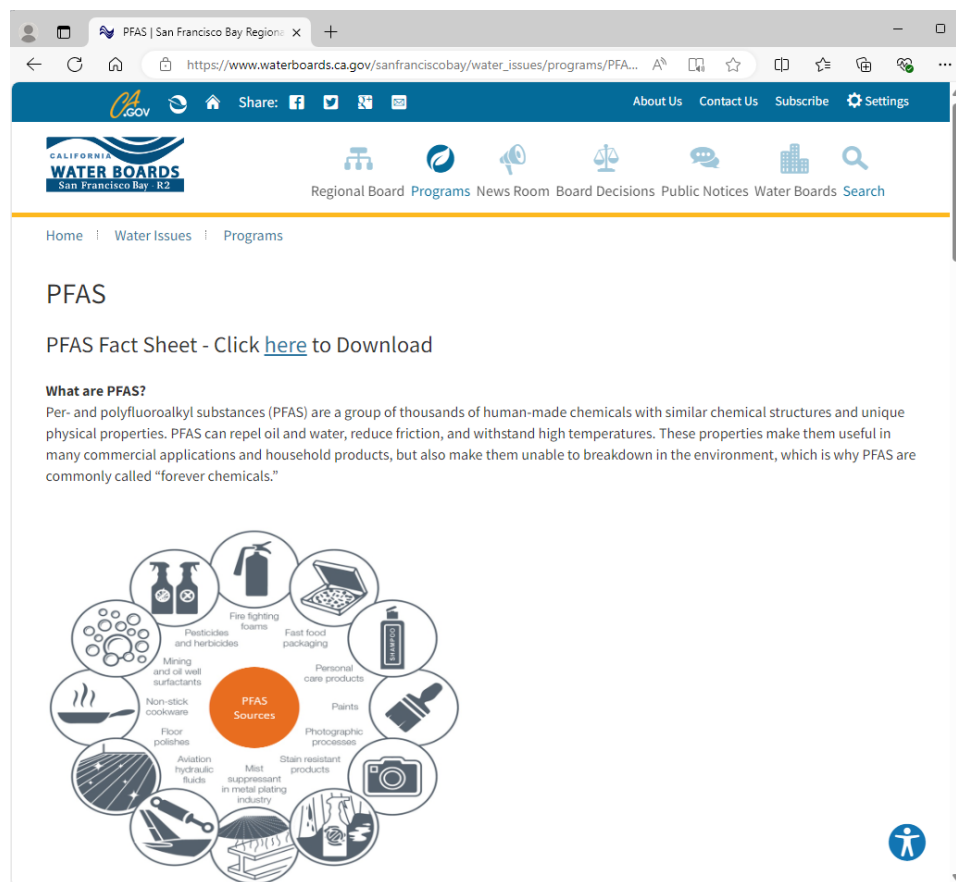


Figure 1: Screenshot of PFAS Webpage

Cleanup of Gasoline Spill, San Rafael (Demir Worthington)

We oversaw the cleanup of a gasoline spill in San Rafael. A tanker truck overturned at 950 Northgate Drive on January 16, breaking a concrete curb and releasing approximately 1,000 gallons of gasoline. Approximately 900 gallons migrated into drain rock surrounding a sanitary sewer line. Cleanup involved the excavation of 150 feet of drainage rock and soil. The remaining 100 gallons entered a storm drain and discharged to Gallinas Creek. Cleanup of the creek area involved the use of absorbent booms to contain and remove gasoline within 250 feet downstream of the outfall. No impacts to fish or wildlife were reported. The storm drain system was flushed and sampled multiple times, and no gasoline has since been detected in the storm drain system or the creek.



Figure 1: Overturned Tanker at 950 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA

Nonpoint Source Grant Program (Nicole Fairley)

The State Water Resources Control Board Nonpoint Source Grant Program (Grant Program) provides federal Clean Water Act 319(h) grant funding to projects that aim to reduce nonpoint source pollution in runoff that flows to the waters of the State. The Grant Program funds projects addressing nonpoint source pollution in impaired watersheds and prioritizes improvements in watersheds with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff routinely facilitate new project proposals and currently manage 7 to 9 grant agreements. Our current grantees have been allocated a total of \$2.77 million in grant funding and are committed to providing \$2.19 million in match funding. This funding is used to implement a diverse set of projects including post-fire erosion control; streambank stabilization; riparian, floodplain, and instream habitat enhancement; rural dirt road improvements, including at stream crossings; and agricultural management practices for controlling pathogens and sediment.

New Awards

Statewide grant funds are awarded annually and this year, one new project is expected to be implemented in the Pescadero Creek watershed. San Mateo County and San Mateo Resource Conservation District will focus on repairing and upgrading four eroding stream crossings over the Bloomquist and Peterson Creek tributaries to Pescadero Creek to significantly reduce fine sediment inputs at these prioritized sites.

Recently Completed

Several grant-funded projects have been completed since February or will be completed by the end of this summer. This includes the Napa River Restoration Oakville to Oak Knoll Group D Project (Figure 1), which was constructed and monitored to completion by Napa County. This Project has successfully restored floodplain surfaces, large wood habitat structures, laid back and stabilized steep eroding banks with biotechnical bank stabilization, and planted native riparian vegetation.



Figure 1: Group D - Site 4B of the Napa River Restoration Oakville to Oak Knoll Project showing steep eroding bank in the pre-project condition in September 2020 (left most photo), post-construction conditions with laid back banks and a floodplain secondary channel in April 2022 (middle photo), and native riparian and biotechnical vegetation establishment in July 2023 (right most photo).

Another Napa County project, the Bale Slough Bear Creek Restoration Project, was successfully constructed in summer 2023 with many of the same restoration and

enhancement features described above and is expected to be closed out this September (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Group A - Site 5 of Bale Slough Bear Creek Restoration Project showing steep eroding banks before project implementation in April 2023 (left photo), and the same site with laid-back banks and large wood following construction in March 2024 (right photo).

The upper Sonoma Creek Restoration Planning Project was also completed, which is the first of many projects being developed through Sonoma Ecology Center's watershed-scale restoration planning effort for upper Sonoma Creek. Design plans include features for restoring floodplain surfaces, laying back steep eroding banks, biotechnical bank stabilization, and large wood habitat features at priority sites.

Each of these projects aims to reduce fine sediment input from steep eroding banks and improve instream and floodplain habitat, sediment storage, and sorting to achieve progress toward their respective sediment TMDL targets.

Continuing Work

Resource Conservation Districts provide valuable technical and financial assistance to landowners who voluntarily want to implement both proactive and corrective projects that improve water quality. Many of our local Resource Conservation Districts utilize grant funds for this work. The Sonoma Resource Conservation District is currently implementing its Landsmart Planning Project, which assists Petaluma River Watershed horse boarding operators with developing Ranch Water Quality Plans. This process has created working relationships and opportunities for water quality education with landowners and ranch managers.

The Conserving Our Watersheds (COW) program was created by the Marin Resource Conservation District as a response to the Tomales Bay Pathogen TMDL and the associated water quality regulation, by assisting the major watershed land use type, small family farms. The program assists ranchers and dairy farmers with the planning and implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. The most recent phase of the Conserving Our Watersheds program is working to complete six improvement projects on dairies and grazing ranches that will reduce potential pathogen, sediment, and/or nutrient loading to both Tomales Bay and the Estero de San Antonio watersheds.

Caltrans Oakland Site Tour (Eileen White)

On Monday, June 17, Board Members Belin and Gunther and several of our staff joined Caltrans and City of Oakland officials to observe the installation of a large full trash capture device, a debris-separating baffle box in East Oakland. Our first stop was the East Oakland construction site, followed by a stop in West Oakland on Mandela Parkway, where Caltrans will install another full trash capture device later this year. Both projects are regional partnership projects between Caltrans and the City of Oakland. Collectively, they will control trash from about 1,530 acres (2.4 square miles) of Caltrans right-of-way and Oakland land, and will remove associated pollutants in runoff, including polychlorinated biphenyls and mercury. These projects are a direct result of the Cease and Desist Order issued by the Board to Caltrans to control trash, Caltrans' Statewide Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, and the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, issued to 79 Bay Area municipalities, including Oakland, to control the discharge of trash and other pollutants to receiving waters, including San Francisco Bay.

These two projects represent a range of opportunities for protecting and enhancing the quality of the Region's waters, including:

- Coordinated effort that optimizes environmental outcomes by taking advantage of watershed-scale engineering solutions
- Combined multi-agency expertise and resources to support successful project outcomes
- Leveraging critical funding for economically challenged and underserved communities
- Implementing environmental protection and stewardship measures during project design, construction, and operation

At the September 11, 2024, Board meeting, staff plans to report to the Board on Bay Area municipalities' work to control trash. That includes their use of large full trash capture devices like the ones in these projects, which are contributing to overall Bay Area trash control.



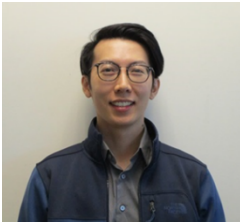
Staff Introductions (Eileen White)



Cheryl Cooper joins the Management Services Division (MSD) as a Seasonal Clerk. The role of Seasonal Clerk is an important part time administrative position that supports our ongoing operations. This entry level role is ideal for individuals with administrative experience looking for schedule flexibility. Cheryl grew up in San Jose and graduated from UC Merced with a bachelor's degree in biology. She is a licensed and certified pharmacy technician. Cheryl also has her substitute teacher credentials and is an academic tutor. Cheryl resides in Alameda with her husband and two cats. She enjoys playing video games, reading, and collecting plants.



Michele Harden returns to the MSD team as a Seasonal Clerk. Michele worked at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board from 2014 to 2016 supporting our Public Request Act filing and system management. She also has previous work experience with other California State agencies. Michele's interests include listening to live music, taking walks, watching movies, and reading.



Brian Feng also joins the MSD team as an Office Technician. He will be helping with a magnitude of administrative, clerical, and operational projects including supporting the delivery of Board-related materials. Brian has a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from UC Davis and is working on an Associate Degree in Computer Science. As a Bay Area native, he enjoys trying all kinds of cuisine and is a boba connoisseur.

Enforcement Action (Brian Thompson and James Parrish)

The following is a proposed settlement since last month's report. As the proposed settlement is 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 settlement.

This proposed settlement is currently noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comments are received by the deadline, the Executive Officer will sign the order implementing this settlement.

Discharger	Violation(s)	Proposed Penalty	Comment Deadline
ExxonMobil Environmental and Property Solutions Company	Discharge limit violation	\$3,000	July 11, 2024

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 May 16 through June 12, 2024. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation	Berkeley	Alameda	✓
Brackish Water Desalination Plant Feasibility Study of the Guadalupe River	San Jose	Alameda	✓
Turner Dam Spillway Rock Repair	Sunol	Alameda	
Crockett Cogeneration Plant Seawall Repairs	Crockett	Contra Costa	✓
Gabion Basket Wall Failure Repair and Buried Stitch Pier Wall	Lafayette	Contra Costa	
Amorco Marine Terminal 2024 MOTEMS Repair Work	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Phillips 66 MOTEMS Concrete Repairs at Richmond Marine Terminal	Richmond	Contra Costa	✓
Chicken Ranch Beach Wetland Enhancement	Inverness	Marin	
San Geronimo Creek Large Wood Habitat Enhancement	Unincorporated	Marin	
Conley Ranch Calistoga	Calistoga	Napa	
Pier 39 Pile Repairs	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
San Pedro Creek Bank Stabilization Creekside HOA Reach Western Site	Pacifica	San Mateo	
Site Bank and Offsite Sediment Cleanup	Redwood City	San Mateo	✓
Pilarcitos Dam Siphons Replacement	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
R1334 Erosion Mitigation Emergency Repairs	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
Guadalupe River at Willow Emergency Bank Stabilization	San Jose	Santa Clara	
Vallejo Yacht Club Maintenance Dredging	Vallejo	Solano	✓