

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

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: D'Andre Alejandro
MEETING DATE: October 8, 2025**

ITEM: 5

**2025 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award– Presentation of Award to
Union Sanitary District**

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DISCUSSION

This item is the presentation of the 2025 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to Union Sanitary District (District) in recognition of its exemplary School Outreach Program to youth. For many kids, the School Outreach Program is their introduction to watersheds, sewersheds, and stormwater concepts, such as how pollutants like fats, oils, and grease and household hazardous wastes impact wastewater systems and the environment. The District, which provides wastewater collection and treatment to the cities of Union City, Fremont, and Newark (i.e., the Tri-Cities), recognizes the importance of instilling pollution prevention concepts in younger generations. It has been an active partner with the Tri-Cities to outreach to kids since the conception of the School Outreach Program in 1995. Since then, the School Outreach Program has reached over 52,000 students. In 2024, the District delivered the program to 88 classrooms and around 2,650 fifth graders. The School Outreach Program even meets Next Generation Science Standards, a set of science education standards that aims to prepare students for science and technology careers. The program has been a reputable vehicle to deliver science and pollution prevention concepts to youth in the Tri-Cities area. Last summer, the District piloted a similar program at the City of Fremont's Junior Rangers Summer Camp, thus delivering year-round youth outreach on pollution prevention concepts.

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 downstream. The spirit of Dr. Wu's belief remains pivotal today as we encourage incentives to expand on wastewater and biosolids recycling, whose success is contingent on the pollutants that are in them. The annual award in his name recognizes and celebrates 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
2025	Union Sanitary District	Exceptional school outreach program to youth
2024	Napa Sanitation	Public outreach and education activities
2023	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Pesticides Subcommittee (Stephanie Hughes, Kelly Moran, and Tammy Qualls accepting on behalf of the committee)	Pesticide source control via advocacy and outreach
2022	San Francisco Department of the Environment	Polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reduction efforts
2021	California Association of Sanitation Agencies	Advocacy of AB 818: "Do Not Flush" labeling on disposable wipes
2020	City of Berkeley	Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance
2019	Geoff Brosseau	Reducing stormwater pollution throughout California
2018	Ann Joseph	Promoting integrated pest management in retail
2017	Melody LaBella and Karin North	Numerous projects to reduce wastewater pollution
2016	City of San Jose	Innovative outreach campaigns
2015	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	Leading a campaign against flushing disposable wipes
2014	Phil Bobel	Lifetime achievement in pollution prevention
2013	City of Palo Alto	Research and outreach efforts on contaminants of emerging concern
2012	Alameda County	Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance
2012	Thomas Barron	Lifetime achievement in pollution prevention
2011	Millbrae Water Pollution Prevention Program	Outstanding public outreach
2010	Wastewater Treatment Agencies of Marin County	Collaborative public education program
2009	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group	"No Drugs Down the Drain" campaign
2008	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	"Fats, Oils, and Grease to Fuel" program
2007	Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group	Mercury reduction education
2007	East Bay Municipal Utility District	Collaboration with local groups