

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

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2026

ITEM: 5

Executive Officer's Report

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Protecting Bay Fishers Grant Proposal Selected for Funding by EPA's SF Bay Grant Program (Sara Jacobs)

On May 4, 2026, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) notified the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) that their grant proposal, titled "Protecting Bay Fishers: Fish Monitoring, Consumption Surveys, and Exposure Reduction to Support Management of PFAS, PCBs, and Other Contaminants in San Francisco Bay," was selected to receive funding under the San Francisco Bay (SF Bay) Grant Program. The approximately \$4 million project included around \$3 million in U.S. EPA funding and \$1 million as a match with multiple collaborators including the State and Regional Water Boards. This grant project will expand an existing pilot project between SFEI and the Regional Water Board that included collection of 200 fish consumption surveys. The expanded project involves collecting 1,200 fish-consumption surveys, monitoring pollutants in fish tissue, and working with fishing communities and tribes to raise awareness about mitigating the risks of eating fish caught in San Francisco Bay. To supplement the Protecting Bay Fishers grant project, the Regional Water Board is contributing an additional \$141,000 from the Cleanup and Abatement Funds to specifically target tribal engagement and the tribal fish consumption surveys. Ultimately, the engagement and surveys will be used to inform the designation of the Tribal Subsistence Fishing and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses to waters in the region.



Figures 1 and 2: Water Board Staff Interviewing Anglers at the San Leandro Pier in February 2026

Wastewater Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls Loads Update (D'Andre Alejandro and James Parrish)

As noted, San Francisco Bay is impaired by mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Mercury and PCBs are toxic and environmentally persistent, and they accumulate in fish, wildlife, and people. Consequently, the Board adopted total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for mercury in 2006 and PCBs in 2008. These TMDLs included wasteload allocations that define how much mercury and PCBs wastewater facilities can discharge to San Francisco Bay. In 2025, mercury and PCBs loads in wastewater discharges continued to be below the TMDL wasteload allocations, which are implemented through a regionwide watershed permit the Board reissued in 2022 through Order No. R2-2022-0038.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2 below, the municipal and industrial wastewater mercury loads were 13 and 17 percent of their respective TMDL wasteload allocations. Both the municipal and industrial loads decreased from 2024 loads. Mercury loads remain consistent with discharges over the last decade.

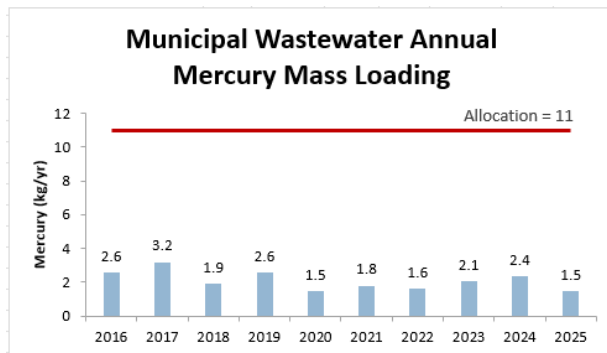


Figure 1: Municipal Mercury Mass Loads

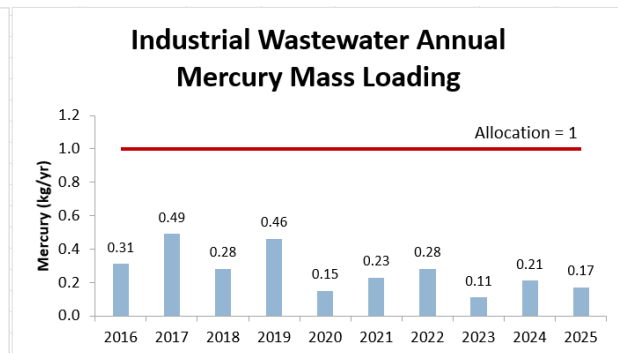


Figure 2: Industrial Mercury Mass Loads

As shown on the next page in Figures 3 and 4, the municipal and industrial wastewater PCBs loads were both 19 percent of the TMDL wasteload allocations. The 2025 municipal wastewater discharge load was consistent with the 2024 load, whereas the industrial wastewater discharge load decreased. PCBs loads remain consistent for both municipal and industrial discharges over the last decade. Although the industrial load may appear more variable, this is partly attributable to the small scale of PCBs in discharges, where minor differences in sample concentrations can exaggerate the apparent degree of variability.

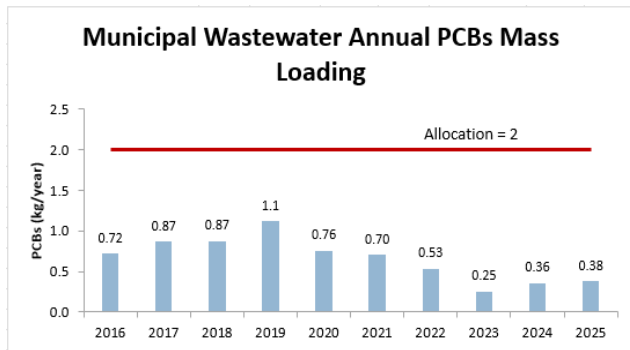


Figure 3: Municipal PCBs Mass Loads

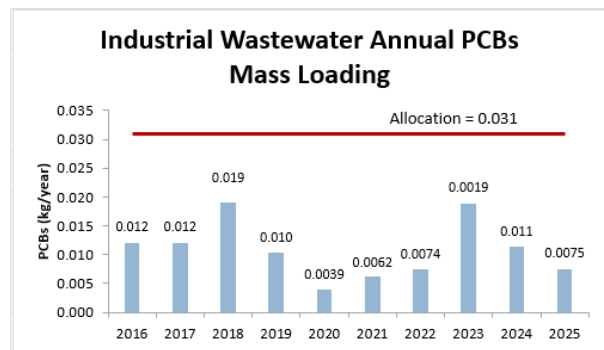


Figure 4: Industrial PCBs Mass Loads

We expect some mercury and PCBs load variation between years because load calculations are based on samples collected at random times throughout the year. Thus, load fluctuations could be due to sample timing and frequency, analytical variability, or weather. For example, wet weather can increase loads by mobilizing solids in municipal sanitary sewer systems or discharging contaminated runoff into industrial treatment ponds, and corresponding analytical results may be disproportionately skewed based on the sample timing during a storm and sample frequency throughout the year. Analytical variability is also expected because the PCBs loads summarized above rely on a sensitive analytical method with very low detection limits and high variability in laboratory reporting practices.

Despite the factors that can affect load estimates, municipal and industrial wastewater facilities consistently discharge mercury and PCBs loads below their TMDL wasteload allocations. Mercury and PCBs adsorb to solids in wastewater, and municipal and industrial facilities in the region remove most solids during their treatment processes; municipal facilities generally remove over 90 percent of the mercury and PCBs in their influent. These facilities continue to engage in treatment, pretreatment, and pollution prevention efforts to control mercury and PCBs loads to the Bay.

All-Staff Field Trip: Exploring the Water Board's Footprint Along the Embarcadero (Deirdre Ryan, Luis Anaya Vasquez, Natlie Lee, and James Parrish)

On May 28, 2026, the NPDES Wastewater Division led an annual all-staff training and field trip along San Francisco's Embarcadero waterfront. In groups of six-to-eight, staff walked along the waterfront between the Ferry Building and Aquatic Park, observing various sites with Regional Water Board projects and permits across our five technical divisions. Before the tour, we heard presentations from staff and the Port of San Francisco describing some of the sites we would be observing, highlighting collaboration efforts within the Regional Water Board and with our external partners. Presentation topics included the offshore sediment remediation project between Pier 39 and Pier 43½; multiple permitted sites under the Industrial and Construction Stormwater Permits; ongoing cleanup and multiple permits on Treasure Island, and the NPDES permit for the Exploratorium at Pier 15, which uses Bay water to heat and cool its museum building. The Tentative Order proposing reissuance of this permit will come before you at this month's Board meeting. The Port of San Francisco presentation detailed its waterfront resilience plan and the many exciting things to come addressing sea-level rise, climate adaptation, and seismic risk.

The self-guided tour was accompanied by a field guide with information about the Regional Water Board's projects and history of the Embarcadero. The field guide included a treasure hunt, which fostered engagement between groups and appreciation for the art and history along the man-made shoreline that influences our work. The day culminated with a visit to the Exploratorium for an after-hour museum visit with interactive science demonstrations and lectures on topics including water, wave action, and climate impacts. This event was educational, fun (according to many staff), and provided valuable exposure to the work and footprint of the Regional Water Board.

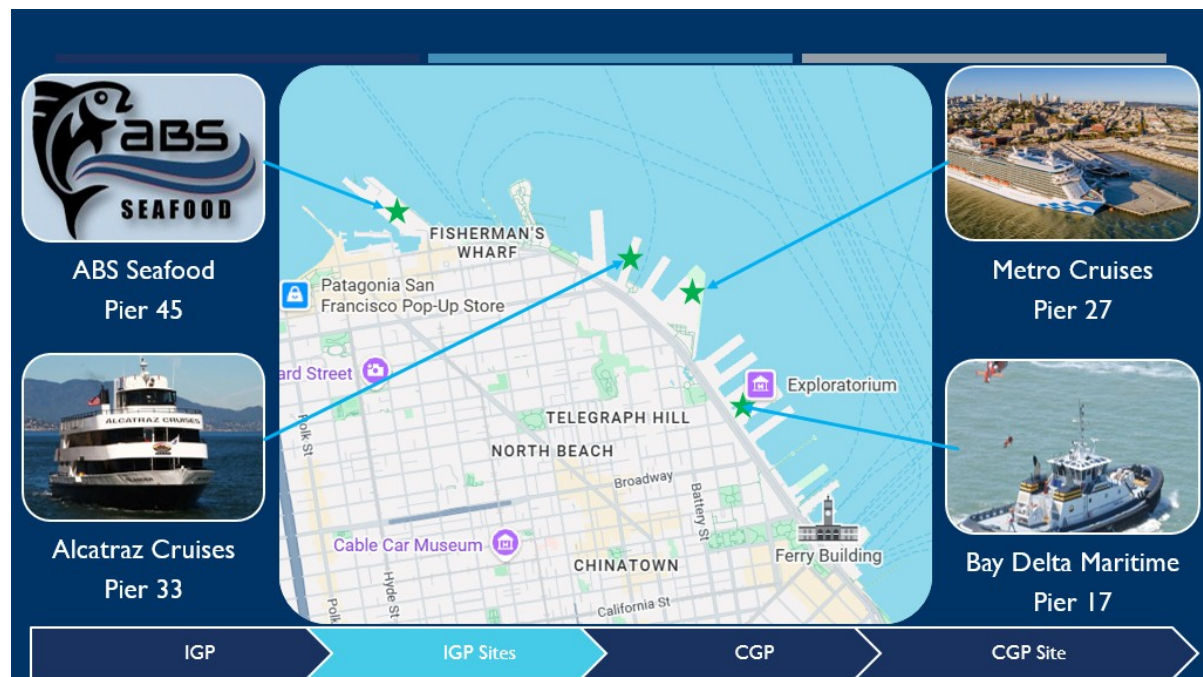


Figure 1: Industrial and Construction Stormwater Permit sites observed during the field trip.



Figure 2: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff during our field trip

Staff Updates (Eileen M. White)



Mary Cousins was hired as an Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisory) to lead the NPDES Wastewater Division. Mary is a registered Professional Engineer in California and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Stanford University, a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Mary previously worked as an engineering consultant for more than a decade, and most recently served as the Regulatory Program Manager at the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), a joint powers agency representing Bay Area wastewater collection and wastewater treatment agencies. She resides in Oakland.



Alberto Rodriguez Santiago was hired as an Engineering Geologist in the Toxic Cleanup Division's South Bay Section, where he will oversee groundwater cleanup sites in the Site Cleanup and the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Programs. Alberto is originally from Madrid, Spain. He holds two bachelor's degrees, in Geology and Geotechnical Engineering, along with master studies in Sequence Stratigraphy and Sedimentary Basins from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He is a Professional Geologist in California and is currently pursuing the Professional Engineering license. He began his career consulting on environmental investigation and remediation projects in Spain and France and has continued that work in the Bay Area since 2022. Outside of work, Alberto is passionate about nature and enjoys scuba diving, hiking, and wildlife photography. He also enjoys traveling and exploring natural landscapes, with a strong interest in ocean conservation, paleontology, astronomy, and biodiversity.



Jacob Fine-Thomas was hired as an Environmental Scientist in the Watershed Management Division's Municipal Stormwater Section, where he will support the Statewide General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems and the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP). Jacob is originally from Oklahoma and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He began his career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 office in Denver, where he implemented programs to regulate carbon and methane emissions from coal-fired power plants, natural gas facilities, and incinerators. Jacob is interested in the public sector's responsibility to protect public health and the environment and is excited to apply his regulatory experience to a new subject matter. Outside of work, Jacob is an avid runner, multi-disciplinary cyclist, and tennis player. He has recently started birding and hopes to one day see a California Condor.



Amita Muralidharan was hired as a Water Resource Control Engineer in the Groundwater Protection and Waste Containment Division's Land Disposal Section, where she will oversee active and closed landfills, waste management units at industrial facilities, composting facilities, and groundwater cleanup sites. She previously interned and worked as an Environmental Engineer at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 office in San Francisco, where she evaluated and oversaw drinking water infrastructure projects for Tribal communities in California. Amita received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from University of California, Davis. In her free time, she enjoys weightlifting, running, hiking, thrifting, trying new restaurants, and playing fetch with her two kittens, Smudgearoo and Bumi.



Maggie Monahan was recently promoted to manage the Watershed Management Division. Maggie joined the Water Board in 2016, starting in enforcement for her first two years, and then serving as the section leader of the Recycled Water, Wastewater, Industrial and Construction Stormwater, and Enforcement section. Prior to joining the Water Board, Maggie worked for Chevron on research and development efforts in the areas of wastewater management and environmental compliance. Maggie is a registered Professional Engineer in California and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Systems Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University. Maggie lives in Berkeley with her husband and three sons, and spends much of her free time cheering them on at their sporting events.



After more than 25 years of service at the Water Board, Richard Looker, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in the Planning Division, is retiring. During his tenure at the Water Board, Richard worked on a variety of projects. His impact on the Water Board's work was immediate, extensive, and lasting. Over the years, he has developed site-specific objectives for copper and nickel in the lower South Bay, developed the total maximum daily load for mercury in the San Francisco Bay, served as the Water Board's representative on the Technical Review Committee of the Bay Regional Monitoring Program, led multiple efforts to update the list of impaired waters in the region, represented the Water Board in several statewide roundtables, mentored numerous staff, and most recently, translated nutrient monitoring data and models into effluent limits for the nutrient watershed permit. Perhaps most importantly, Richard did this work with a disarming smile and sharp wit. We appreciate all his contributions and wish him the best in his new adventures.

Superior Accomplishment Awards



Liz Morrison, Senior Environmental Scientist, has received a Superior Accomplishment Award for her statewide facilitation and regional interagency coordination resulting in the establishment of the San Francisco Bay In-Lieu Fee Program. The In-Lieu Fee program allows projects that are impacting wetlands to obtain mitigation credits for those impacts, letting the projects move forward while supporting needed wetland restoration in the Bay Area. In the urbanized Bay Area, there are few mitigation banks, in part because available property is typically used for other, more-profitable purposes like development.

The San Francisco Bay In-Lieu Fee Program is unusual in its scope and creates a framework that can readily accommodate much-needed future growth. The scope made its establishment unlikely, and Liz, who has led the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board mitigation banking program for more than a decade, established relationships with key Bay Area regional, state, and federal agency constituents navigating the complexity to help get the In-Lieu Fee Program established.

Liz has spent more than 30 years protecting creeks and wetlands working on some of our region's most challenging projects. In the Bay Area, there are significant, growing, and time-critical needs for:

- Wetland mitigation for infrastructure projects, like State Highway 37, that are filling existing wetlands to adapt to climate change (e.g., rising tides)
- Funding to support SF Bay shoreline tidal marsh restoration projects, such as the Sonoma Baylands, that can protect upland areas from flooding and preserve and restore critical Bay habitat for wildlife and fish, and
- Wetland mitigation options to support needed housing projects that impact wetlands, when those projects cannot mitigate for impacts on-site.

Liz retires at the end of this month, and we will greatly miss her significant contributions to water quality throughout the Bay as well as her wit and true partnership across the region. We wish her well on her next adventures.



John Madigan, Water Resource Control Engineer, has received a Superior Accomplishment Award for his outstanding achievements including the reissuance of the Lehigh Southwest Cement Company's (Lehigh) NPDES Permit for its Permanente Plant in Cupertino, CA.

For more than 10 years, John has been the case manager for Lehigh's NPDES permit (Permit No. CA0030210) for treated process wastewater and industrial stormwater discharges to Permanente Creek. During that time, John has deftly navigated a complex and constantly evolving political, technical, and regulatory environment through three permit reissuance cycles. Each reissuance of Lehigh's NPDES permit receives a high degree of public scrutiny from interested parties with a variety of backgrounds and opinions, requiring John to balance divergent views on the nature of pollutant discharges from this site and identify how best to address them.

Over his two decades at the Water Boards, John has performed work critical to the NPDES program at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board. With his experience, technical knowledge, and thoughtfulness, he has been the go-to person for handling our more complex — and sometimes, contentious — cases, including refineries, quarries, a power plant, a landfill, and unconventional municipal wastewater treatment plants. As such, he has managed an impressive caseload as an NPDES case manager, consistently delivering high quality permits, inspection reports, and enforcement orders within our target timelines. These have often been complemented with informative presentations and attentive feedback to stakeholders and the public.

Amid these responsibilities, John has also found time to support and improve our programs by mentoring and encouraging junior staff, providing crucial feedback to management to improve internal processes, contributing to external working groups, and striving to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in our agency. John is an outstanding and knowledgeable employee who represents the best of what it means to be a civil servant. His upcoming retirement represents a major loss of institutional knowledge for our NPDES programs and support for our staff, and he will be sorely missed by the staff he has befriended over the years.



Aidan Cecchetti has received a Superior Accomplishment Award for his contributions as part of the Water Boards Racial Equity team. Racial equity and environmental justice are a Water Board priority. The State and Regional Water Boards are working toward a future where race no longer predicts a person's access to water or the quality of water resources they receive, where race does not predict professional outcomes for our employees, and where we consistently consider racial equity impacts before we make decisions. One critical space that has helped the Water Boards further these goals is the Racial Equity Support Lunch. This award is intended to recognize, thank, and celebrate the leaders from across the Water Boards who have, and continue to coordinate, the Racial Equity Support Lunch. During his time at the Water Boards, Aidan has represented the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and previously the Division of Drinking Water, in these efforts.

The Racial Equity Support Lunch is a staff-led effort that is unique to the Water Boards among state agencies. Aidan has served on the team that coordinates the Racial Equity Support Lunch and, together, they have demonstrated outstanding superior achievement and contributed personal effort to positively impact hundreds of Water Boards employees. The team has taken on this responsibility beyond the normal requirements of the individual employee's position. Their efforts and dedication have contributed substantially to creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace environment. These individuals are champions of a brighter, more equitable future, leaving a lasting legacy of positive change for all Californians.

Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and James Parrish)

The following tables show the proposed and settled enforcement actions since our last report. As the proposed settlements are pending and could come before either the Board or the Executive Officer for a decision, *ex parte* communications are prohibited. This means there can be no communication on these pending enforcement matters without opportunity for all parties to participate in that communication. Please refer to the [Pending Enforcement Liabilities and Penalties](#) webpage for more information on the details of the alleged violation and proposed settlement.

Proposed Settlement

The following has been 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
California Pacific Bank (Formerly Echo Sales), 6161 Coliseum Way, Oakland	Failure to comply with Self-Monitoring Program	\$83,880	June 15, 2026

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

Discharger	Violation(s)	Imposed Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
City of Sunnyvale	Discharge limit violations	\$36,000	\$25,500 ¹
Sobrato Organization	Discharge limit violations	\$15,000	-
Delta Diablo	Unauthorized discharge	\$5,557,700	\$5,369,490 ²
City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1	Discharge limit violations	\$63,000	\$39,000 ³

- 1 This amount will supplement Regional Monitoring Program studies. 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.
- 2 \$4,330,000 of this amount will fund the Shore Acres Force Main Repair Project, which would add a parallel 0.9-mile permanent force main connecting to the Shore Acres Pump Station. This would replace the existing Shores Acre Pump Station force main, whose structural integrity failed, causing the unauthorized discharge. \$1,039,490 of this amount will fund the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Enhancements Project, which would retrofit Delta Diablo's treatment plant outfall diffuser ports with check valves to reduce sediment and aquatic organism capture, improve final effluent mixing, and reduce flow reversal at the outfall.
- 3 This amount will fund the Richmond Watershed Rangers Program, which will coordinate and supervise watershed stewardship and trash cleanup projects in the City of Richmond's disadvantaged communities with participation from local schools. Students will perform projects with assistance from their teachers and families with the primary goal of trash removal within neighborhoods, parks, and waterways.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Joseph Martinez)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from April 9 through May 13, 2026. An 'X' in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Bay Farm Island Southern Shoreline Storm Repairs	Alameda	Alameda	X
San Lorenzo Creek Remediation and Bank Stabilization Project- Oak Creek Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Facility	Castro Valley	Alameda	
Branough Property Development Project	Dublin	Alameda	
Alamo Creek Bank Stabilization And Flood Management Project	Dublin	Alameda	
Roadway Stabilization at Grand View Drive in Oakland	Oakland	Alameda	
Lake Aliso Spillway Repair and Rehabilitation and Lion Creek Stabilization Project	Oakland	Alameda	
Blackhawk Pond 11 Sediment Removal Project	Danville	Contra Costa	
Gold Bond Containment Structure and Site Improvements	Richmond	Contra Costa	X
Oil Recovery and Response Actions near the 7 Pump Station	Richmond	Contra Costa	X
Boat Hoist Replacement	Belvedere	Marin	X
Fairfax Capacity and Creek Crossings Project (#957)	Fairfax	Marin	

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Meadow Way Bridge Replacement	Fairfax	Marin	
237 Monte Vista Ave - Garage	Larkspur	Marin	
830 Tamalpais Avenue Creek Bank Stabilization / Retaining Wall Project	Novato	Marin	
Marin Art and Garden Center Project	Ross	Marin	
Fjord Floating Sauna	Sausalito	Marin	X
22 Alexander Ave. Stair and Landings Repair	Sausalito	Marin	X
2314 Mar East - Tiburon	Tiburon	Marin	X
Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement Project	Unincorporated	Marin	
2026 East Harbor and Outside East Harbor Sediment Sampling	San Francisco	San Francisco	X