



BAY AREA POLLUTION PREVENTION GROUP

A Committee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Covering reporting period of 1/1/22 – 12/31/22

BAPPG Chair: Autumn Cleave

BAPPG Co Chair: Robert Wilson

BAPPG Vice Chair: Joe Neugebauer

Prepared by: Joe Neugebauer

Submitted to: Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a subcommittee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), is comprised of 43 Bay Area wastewater agencies that work together to coordinate pollution prevention activities and leverage resources for smaller agencies to reduce the amount of toxic pollutants discharged into the San Francisco Bay and local waterways. Wastewater agency representatives meet monthly to share information, leverage resources, and develop regional activities that help member agencies meet regulatory outreach requirements and BAPPG goals.

2022 COMMITTEE UPDATES

All files pertaining to BAPPG are being added to the BACWA BAPPG webpage (<https://bacwa.org/committees/bay-area-pollution-prevention-group/>). This includes meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports, presentations, and information on pollutants of concern.

2022-2023 BAPPG officers were selected:

- Chair – Autumn Cleave, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Co-Chair – Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa
- Vice Chair – Joe Neugebauer, West County Wastewater

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

This report serves as an update to BACWA and member agencies for all BAPPG projects, by pollutant, which took place from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

1. COPPER
2. FATS OILS AND GREASE (FOG)
3. MERCURY AND SILVER
4. PESTICIDES
5. PHARMACEUTICALS
6. TRASH AND WIPES
7. PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

1. POLLUTANT: COPPER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Copper pipe corrosion has been a major concern to the wastewater community for more than a decade. For many years, the messages have focused on proper installation, including the use of a water-based flushable flux. In California, there are also alternatives to copper pipe for potable and non-potable installations, such as PEX. Further, copper is a pesticide used in swimming pools and spas and incorporated into fabrics.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Select only ASTM B813 water-flushable flux rather than petroleum-based flux (which is not flushable and increases pipe corrosion rates).
2. Incorporate additional BMPs during design, reaming, cleaning, and building commissioning that will reduce pipe corrosion rate.
3. Seek mitigation options for copper products that are used in swimming pools, spas, and fountain treatments (often drained to sanitary sewer) as well as copper-treated fabrics that are subsequently

laundered.

NEXT STEPS

Baywise.org has resources for plumbers that focus on the key messages above. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2, has confirmed that the outreach materials on baywise.org are sufficient for copper education and outreach.

2. POLLUTANT: FATS, OILS AND GREASE

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

FOG is a top priority due to the associated regulatory and financial impacts to member agencies. FOG is a major problem for sewer systems, causing sewer back-ups, sewer overflows onto streets, and foul sewer odors. Because of this, cities often spend millions of dollars a year responding to grease-related sewer blockages and in infrastructure improvements.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Don't pour grease down the drain – collect and recycle used cooking oil

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Outreach: Fats, Oils, & Grease	<p>The purpose of the campaign was to continue educating the Bay Area residents on proper disposal of fat, oil, and grease (FOG) by sending them to the campaign landing page (https://baywise.org/residential/fog).</p> <p>This year, BAPPG's outreach consultant, SGA, implemented a Google translation plugin to baywise.org, and launched a Spanish language campaign (in addition to the English campaign) for the first time. Additionally, SGA also developed a downloadable "FOG Checklist" to include on the campaign landing page to help residents identify FOG and its proper disposal.</p>	September 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022	\$8,000

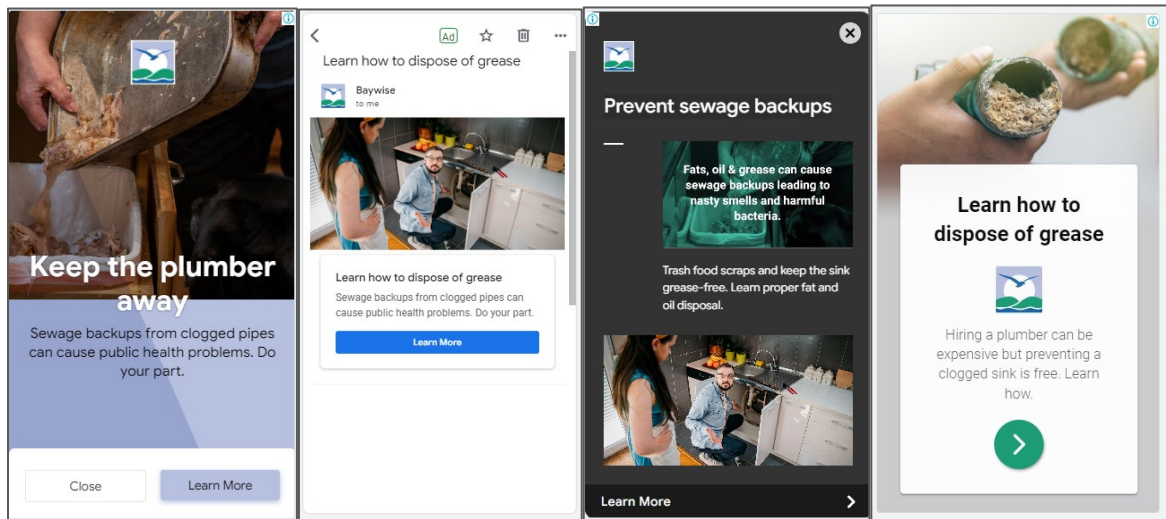
Results

Google Ads:

- Impressions = 3,022,536
- Total Clicks = 27,658
- Average Cost Per Click = \$0.14
- Clicks by County
 - San Francisco = 14,877
 - Santa Clara County = 5,555
 - Alameda County = 2,510
 - Contra Costa County = 1,500
 - San Mateo County = 1,222
 - Sonoma County = 768
 - Solano County = 728
 - Marin County = 279
 - Napa County = 219

MATERIALS (Google Responsive Display Ads assets)

English Ads



Spanish Ads



MATERIALS (downloadable “FOG Checklist”)

KNOW YOUR FOGs

FATS • OILS • GREASES

Fats, oils, and greases, or FOGs, should never be drained in the sink because they can solidify and cause sewer backups into houses or streets, bringing with them health risks.



Did you know that FOGs include more than just cooking grease and frying oils? These are some of the less known FOGs that also need to be disposed of properly:

- **Dairy Products** (such as cheese and butter)
- **Shortening**
- **Meat Fats** (including bacon grease)
- **Sauces, dressings, and gravies**
- **Icing**

☐ Make sure to dispose of these foods properly, by simply putting of them in your compost or trash bin instead of garbage disposal.



☐ Or place them in a sealable container and discard them with your other garbage.



☐ Dispose of FOGs properly to avoid costly pipe replacement and a greasy, smelly mess of pollutants entering your house or community!



Learn more tips about proper FOG disposal at **BayWise.org/Residential/FOG**



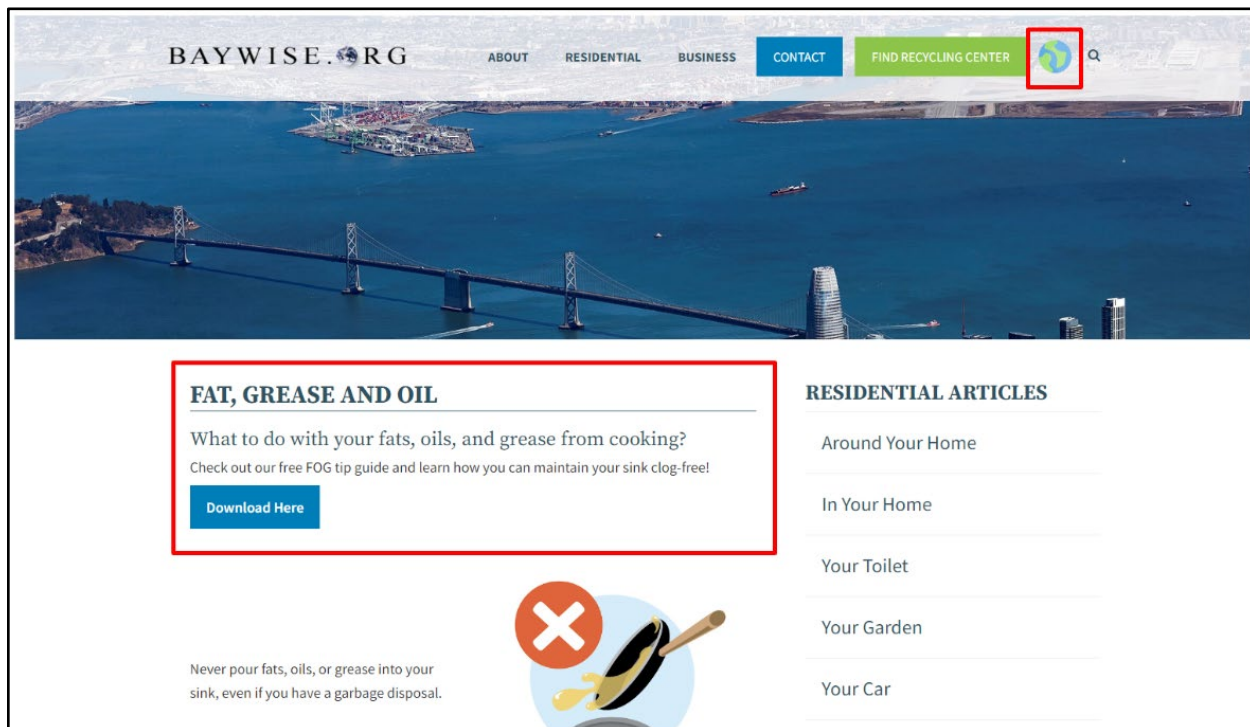
BACWA
BAY AREA
CLEAN WATER
AGENCIES



SGA developed a custom downloadable FOG checklist for residents to print and use as a reminder to properly dispose of FOG.

The list includes reminders for less known FOGs such as dairy products like cheese and butter, shortening, meat fats, sauces, dressings, gravies, and icing.

MATERIALS (Campaign landing page)



Implemented Google translation plugin onto baywise.org. The website is now **available in 13 languages** including the most popular languages like Spanish, Chinese (both Simplified & Traditional), and Vietnamese.

Added a download button for a custom “Fog Checklist” to help residents identify FOG and its proper disposal.

NEXT STEPS

Staff from member agencies and the BAPPG outreach consultant will continue to monitor and update Baywise.org with relevant information.

3. POLLUTANT: MERCURY AND SILVER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Outreach regarding best management practices (BMPs) for dental amalgam and silver fixer waste is essential to ensure member agencies continue to meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Dental amalgam and silver fixer wastes are hazardous and shall not be disposed in dental office sinks.
2. Incorporate BMPs for dental amalgam, silver fixer, and other hazardous wastes within a dental office.
3. The mandated use of BMPs and amalgam separators has significantly decreased the mercury loads into the sewer.
4. As of July 2017, the US EPA is mandating the installation of amalgam separators and the use of

several key BMPs that were originally developed and piloted in the Bay Area.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Stephanie Hughes served as a guest speaker in dental assistant / hygienist classes in local colleges throughout the Bay Area. The lecture was offered as either an online Zoom format or in-person.	Calendar Year 2022	\$3,000

Results

Reached 112 students and instructors at the following site visits:

- San Jose City College (March, 26 students) (virtual)
- Santa Rosa Junior College (October, 45 students) (in person)
- City College of SF (October, 15 students) (in person)
- College of Marin (November, 24 students and 1 new instructor)

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking & Communications	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) advocated for two Assembly bills restricting or banning the sale of mercury-containing products.	Calendar Year 2022	\$5,000

Results

- Tracking compliance and implementation of AB 707 Mercury Thermostats Extended Producer Responsibility Act
 - On or after July 1, 2022, all California retailers and wholesalers that sell thermostats, and licensed contractors can request a free mercury thermostat collection bin. All local governmental agencies can also request a free collection bin for use at a household hazardous waste collection facility or event on or after July 1, 2022
 - Worked on AB 732 Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2021 (signed into law on 9/29/22) which further improves the program by imposing a sales ban on the thermostats of every manufacturer not in compliance with the Act, notwithstanding good faith effort and requires collection boxes be proactively sent to wholesalers.
- Helped pass AB 2208 Fluorescent Lamps Act
 - Bans the sale or distribution of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lightbulbs on and after January 1, 2024 and mercury-containing fluorescent lamps on and after January 1, 2025.
 - The bill was signed by Governor Newsom on September 18, 2022.
 - Submitted a letter of support, created a fact sheet and press release.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to provide a guest speaker to local colleges via the zoom format and/or in-person instruction, as appropriate. The instructors have come to rely on these annual visits and have incorporated BAPPG's program into their instructional calendar. Further, this is a very relevant audience for other messages, such as wipes and pharmaceutical waste, microbeads, and flea control. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality.

4. POLLUTANT: PESTICIDES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Indoor and outdoor application of pesticides can result in chemical runoff into the sewer systems and receiving waters, leading to lower pollutant removal efficiencies at treatment plants, potential biosolids management and recycled water use limitations, as well as aquatic ecosystem degradation.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Promote integrated pest management and less-toxic products as alternatives to pesticides.
2. Seek alternatives to fipronil and imidacloprid and other topical (collar and spot-on) pet treatments (conducted alternative analysis, completed talking points for veterinarians and messages for general public).
3. Work with pesticides regulators to improve their ability to address POTWs during pesticide registration, to support their monitoring efforts, and to implement mitigation when needed.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
OWOW	Our Water Our World (OWOW) is a state-wide outreach program that promotes the use of less-toxic pest control methods and products in the home and garden through local retailers. The program is administered by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA).	Calendar Year 2022	\$10,000

Results

- Coordinated program implementation with major chains Home Depot, and Ace Hardware National, as well as independent garden centers.
 - Home Depot Corporate (Atlanta) directed support of the program with their stores.
- Distributed outreach materials to participating stores including fact sheets, shelf tags, literature rack display signage, *10 Most Wanted* brochures, pocket guide dispensers, and two versions of product guides (Home Depot and generic)
- Updated less-toxic Product Lists: several versions –Master by-manufacturer, and Home Depot Master by-product, Ace Hardware Master by-product, and product lists for other regional small chains.
- Updated / revised Home Depot and General Pest calendars to reflect additional pests and products.
- Updated / revised Home Depot and General How Products work handout, research new products, and active ingredients.

- Revised all training packet handouts – revised and updated information, added new dates and contact.
- Revised and updated the OWOW Vector Control by County, Herbicide Alternatives handout and other educational handouts for Advocates.
- Coordinated employee trainings and public outreach events at *Our Water, Our World* stores.
- Maintained OWOW website (<http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/>). Maintained an up-to-date list of participating stores on the Store Locator.
- New this year, CASQA developed a user-friendly online order form for OWOW subscribers to streamline the ordering of outreach materials.
- Provided and staffed exhibitor booths at the BFG Industry Distributor Show, Reno, NV, October 2022.
- University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) conducted annual continuing education training for IPM Advocates in August 2022.
- Below are some outputs and outcomes for FY 21-22:
 - 94 *Our Water, Our World* store trainings.
 - 610 employees trained at *Our Water, Our World* stores.
 - 1623 QR code OWOW website and fact sheet scans by the public.
 - 27 in-person public tabling events *Our Water, Our World* stores, reaching 1419 people
 - 4 in-person workshops for the public, in total 246 attended
 - 1 podcast interview event, with over 1600 downloads of the program
 - 20 OWOW IPM educational webinars were conducted for the public, 1522 attended and there have been hundreds of views of the available recordings
 - The total number of people reached through all forms of public outreach is 4,787
- Eco-friendly pesticide sales information:
 - The sale of eco-friendly products remains strong. The Home Depot stores continues to see a growth in the sale of alternatives to problem pesticides. This reflects consumer demand, that eco-friendly pesticides are more popular than ever.
 - Vendors and retailers noted that “the organic categories continue to be strong with the millennials”.

Final Note: Due to the Covid pandemic, all retailers continued facing supply chain issues and labor shortages affecting the garden industry significantly. This was another challenging year for scheduling trainings due to lack of employees in the retail stores, with many businesses running with a fraction of the usual staff. Feedback from two national vendors revealed they were “still in survival mode, doing what (they) could to get merchandise to the stores.”

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Flea & Tick Outreach to Veterinarians	Evaluate flea products with regards to pathways to sewers. Develop and communicate recommendations for pet owners and veterinarians to reduce impact to sewers. Conduct trainings to veterinary students and professional associations.	Calendar Year 2022	\$13,000

Results

Veterinary Professionals

- Continued communications with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI).
- Answered questions from the AVMA CEI about fate and transport of active ingredients indoors, including providing information from DPR's human health risk assessment.
- Drafted a national veterinarian survey in collaboration with the AVMA CEI to gauge knowledge of pesticide ecosystem impacts as well as their messages and recommendations to clients.
- Communicated with the Veterinary Information Network, seeking their platform as the outlet for the veterinary survey.
- Updated the veterinary training presentation to add tick prevention and IPM messages to the existing flea IPM messages.
- As of 1/3/2023, BACWA has been approved to provide 1.0 Continuing Education credits for both Veterinarians and Vet Techs for completing our course, "The Links Between Consumer Flea and Tick Control and Aquatic Toxicity." BACWA has one approved instructor, Stephanie Hughes. All approvals are via RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) Standards for Approved Providers of Continuing Veterinary Medical Education. The approvals are valid for all 50 states.

The screenshot displays the RACE web portal interface. At the top, the header includes the RACE logo (powered by ce broker) and the user profile for 'BAY AREA CLEAN WATER AGENCIES'. A left-hand navigation menu lists: Dashboard, Courses, Boards, Communications, and Users. The main content area is titled 'Basic Information' and contains the following details:

- COURSE NAME:** The Links Between Consumer Flea and Tick Control and Aquatic Toxicity
- TRACKING NUMBER:** 20-974662
- COURSE TYPE:** Live Course
- DELIVERY METHOD:** Seminar/Lecture
- DESCRIPTION:** Pesticides for ectoparasite control such as topicals, collars, foggers, and sprays are making their way down indoor drains, through wastewater treatment plants and into our local waterways, sometimes at concentrations that exceed the US Environmental Protection Agency's benchmarks for chronic exposure to aquatic invertebrates. This course will present: (1) scientific evidence regarding the fate and transport of indoor pesticide use, (2) the linkages between indoor pesticide use and aquatic toxicity in local water bodies, and (3) alternatives analyses for both flea and tick control.
- DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:** None.
- STATUS:** Active (indicated by a green checkmark icon). Other options include 'Set as inactive', 'Status history', and 'Instructor history'.

The footer of the page contains links for Home, Call Toll Free: 1-877-434-6323, Conditions of Use, Privacy Notice, and Support Center.

American Association of Veterinary State Boards

✓ Approved

Effective date: 01/03/2023

Effective end: 01/03/2025

Rosters allowed beginning date: 12/08/2022

Granted / Requested

Veterinarian Technician

Medical :

1.00 / 1.00

Veterinarian

Medical :

1.00 / 1.00

Community Outreach

- Initiated communications with the Santa Clara County Medical Association to discuss how pet flea/tick products negatively affect human health; anticipate an introductory meeting on this topic in 2023.
- Collaborated with BACWA member, Palo Alto, to pilot pet flea/tick product communications with a contractor for a municipal pet shelter.
- Collaborated with BACWA member, City of San Jose, to update the flea and tick presentation for an online presentation for the City of Santa Clara library. Results from the librarian's post-presentation survey:
 - 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:
 - “I will use what I learned about the natural environment.”
 - “I learned something useful from the library program.”
 - Attendee Comments
 - “Thank you for providing the information on flea meds, etc. The two presenters had great information and provided resources that I will check out.”
 - “Excellent content and presentation. Useful, evidence-based information. THANK YOU!”
 - “Excellent presentation! Both presenters were easy to understand and provided very valuable information. Thank you.”

Pet owners: Control fleas and ticks while protecting your family and the Bay

Stephanie Hughes and David Robertson

Santa Clara City Library

November 3, 2022



Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking and Communications	<p>The BAPPG Pesticides Workgroup addresses pesticide pollution by engaging in pesticide registration reviews by both the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). These registration review process includes opportunities for public comment. Typical annual activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tracking and prioritizing EPA and DPR re-registration reviews; ● educating staff from DPR and EPA about local pesticide pollution data and concerns; ● engaged in scientific and management conversations with EPA and DPR regarding new scientific evidence linking pet flea control treatments and fipronil and imidacloprid in POTW effluent; and ● submitting comment letters during the pesticide re-registration process through BACWA 	Calendar Year 2022	\$60,000

Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinated with BAPPG to update the list of highest priorities pesticides for BACWA's attention. Created an updated pesticide watch list for tracking purposes. ● Tracked pesticide-related regulatory activities by EPA and DPR and new scientific information that have significant potential to affect BACWA member agencies. Notified BAPPG of such items as they arose. Provided a "crystal ball" near-term priorities tracking summary, updated monthly or bimonthly. ● On the basis of regulatory documents, relevant scientific information, and the regulatory context, made recommendations regarding regulatory participation or other follow-up steps on multiple EPA and DPR actions. ● Met with DPR technical staff to obtain updates regarding their scientific studies and modeling updates. ● Provided significant feedback to DPR regarding their public draft of their Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap to ensure that urban uses obtain sufficient support. ● Initiated communications with EPA Region 9 to seek their support in communicating to EPA headquarters the need to include indoor uses in ecological risk assessments. ● Submitted 2 comment letters to the EPA which explained the pesticide transport route to the sanitary sewer and related scientific studies for priority pesticides:¹

¹ The BACWA EPA pesticide comment letters can be found at bacwa.org/document-category/comment-letters/.

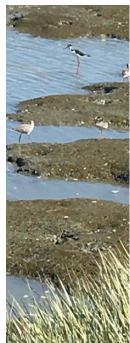
Results

- Provided technical information to support BACWA's coordination with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies on Federal pollution prevention topics, including pesticides and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform.
- Tracked TSCA reform implementation and reported to BAPPG workgroup on EPA's activities.
- Coordinated and provided scientific support for communications with EPA and DPR about wastewater pesticides discharges, wastewater pesticides monitoring, and improving wastewater pesticides predictive modeling to support registration decisions. Continued semi-annual informal information-sharing teleconference meetings between BACWA's pesticide workgroup and DPR's wastewater experts. Conducted an information-sharing teleconference between BACWA's pesticide workgroup and pesticides staff at EPA's Region 9.
- Evaluated outcomes of BACWA input to EPA and DPR and briefed BAPPG/BACWA pesticides leads on these outcomes to assess effectiveness of BACWA's work.
- Developed an agenda and materials for a monthly BACWA Pesticides Workgroup teleconference meeting to determine appropriate actions and to coordinate actions with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff. Provided staff support during the meetings and an action item list after each meeting.
- Briefed the BACWA Executive Board on pesticides regulatory activities and the latest relevant scientific information on pesticides relevant to POTWs.
- Collaborated with CASQA to publish a joint factsheet to explain to BACWA and CASQA members the importance of wastewater and stormwater agencies collaborating on urban pesticide pollution.
- In collaboration with CASQA, succeeded in restoring functionality to the website [Regulations.Gov](https://www.regulations.gov) which is where all EPA registration activity is published. It had lost functionality during the previous administration in such a way that impaired BACWA's ability to interact with EPA pesticide dockets, including the ability to search for and receive information and to post comments. Following communications with BACWA and other stakeholders, many key features were restored. Their attention to our concerns this past year was encouraging.
- **Highlight!** In June, EPA hosted an Environmental Monitoring Public Meeting, the focus of which was the Endangered Species Act and solutions to avoid, minimize or offset potential effects from pesticides to endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitats. BACWA representatives (teamed with CASQA) prepared an abstract (see inset) and was subsequently invited to speak. More than 200 participants, including staff from Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention - Pesticide Programs, convened for the online meeting. The primary message BACWA/CASQA representatives conveyed was that practical Endangered Species Act mitigations specific to urban users are necessary, feasible, and cost-effective. BACWA's presence at the meeting was key, given that other presenters represented registrants and agricultural users. The BACWA/CASQA presentation was the only presentation to make connections between urban uses and endangered species. The presentation included numerous examples of effective mitigations, including DPR's strict limitations to structural use of fipronil by licensed, trained users. The presenters concluded with the following:

Results

1. Endangered species are exposed to pesticides used in urban areas via wastewater and urban runoff;
2. Desktop studies and modeling can identify and prioritize specific urban pesticide uses for mitigation actions;
3. Advanced treatment of pesticides in wastewater and urban runoff is not a feasible mitigation strategy;
4. Pesticide label changes are only effective for licensed & trained users; and
5. Sale and use restrictions are the most effective mitigation options for products designed for unlicensed/untrained pesticide users.

BACWA (and CASQA) Representatives Invited to Present at EPA's **Environmental Modeling Public Meeting – Topic: Endangered Species Assessment, June 23, 2022**



Practical measures and mitigations to reduce pesticide effects on endangered and threatened species in urban areas



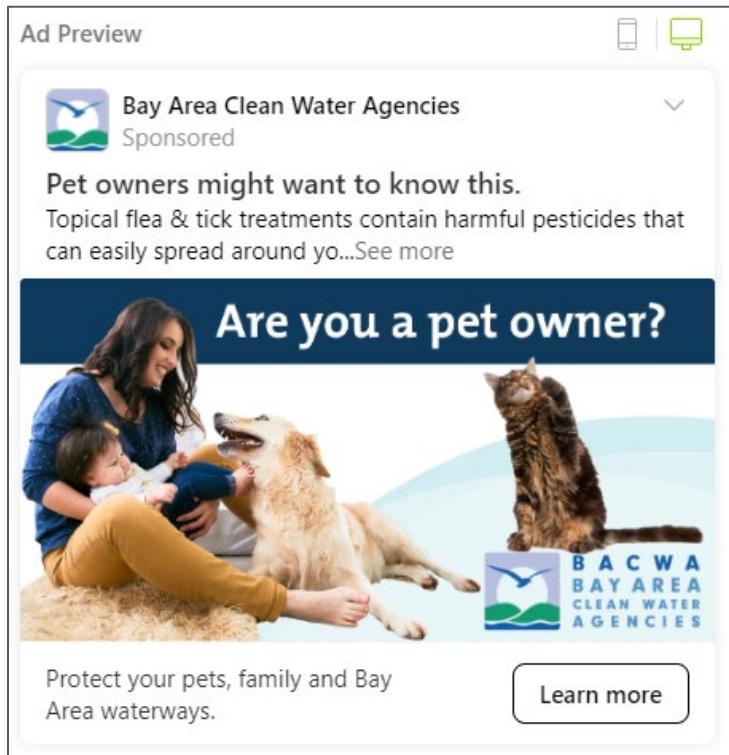
Tammy Qualls, M.S., P.E (Qualls Environmental Consulting); Kelly Moran, Ph.D (San Francisco Estuary Institute); Stephanie Hughes, M.S., P.E. (Santa Clara University); and Armand Ruby, M.S. (Armand Ruby Consulting).

Abstract: State water regulators are required to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act via authority allocated by the Clean Water Act under the NPDES permit program. Local agencies must comply with the NPDES program. Since they cannot regulate the use and sale of pesticides in their local area, they have had to develop practical measures to avoid, minimize, or offset chemicals of concern. Advanced treatment of pesticides in wastewater and stormwater is costly and often unfeasible. Local agencies have instead focused on targeted mitigation of specific chemicals at their source. Source control has led to reduced concentrations of chemicals at publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) and in stormwater. The State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has performed modeling of specific label language changes for the pesticide fipronil to evaluate how changing the width of the application spray or the frequency of application can alter the concentration of fipronil in surface water. This type of modeling of changes in label language allows DPR to focus mitigations on quantifiable results that minimize the impact to aquatic life.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Flea & Tick Outreach	<p>Between April 18, 2022 and May 31, 2022, SGA ran a digital ad campaign consisting of display and video ads. The purpose of the campaign was to educate the pet owners in the Bay Area on the environmental impact of using external flea and tick medicines by sending them to the <u>campaign landing page</u>.</p> <p>For the ad creatives, we upcycled the display ads and a video ad created for the City of Palo Alto by replacing the city logo with BACWA logo. This allowed us more budget to experiment with a new advertising platform, Nextdoor Ads.</p>	April 1 – May 31, 2022	\$8,000

Results
<p>Google Ads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressions = 2,077,162 • Total Clicks = 14,703 • Average Cost Per Click = \$0.34 • Clicks by County (Google Display Ads & YouTube Ads only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco = 8,897 • Santa Clara County = 5,819 • Alameda County = 4,993 • Contra Costa County = 4,013 • San Mateo County = 2,211 • Solano County = 1,692 • Sonoma County = 1,630 • Marin County = 505 • Napa County = 402

Nextdoor ADs



NEXT STEPS

The BACWA Pesticides Workgroup will continue its collaboration with the AVMA CEI beginning with dialogue regarding possible national survey of veterinarians to gauge their knowledge of pesticide impacts to wastewater as well as their messages and recommendations to clients. The workgroup will also continue to request EPA include indoor pesticide use in its evaluation process and track and comment on the EPA and DPR re-registration process.

5. POLLUTANT: PHARMACEUTICALS

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Pharmaceuticals can enter water resources and the San Francisco Bay through improper disposal into wastewater streams (e.g., flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet). Pharmaceuticals have endocrine disrupting properties, and unintended exposure of pharmaceuticals to aquatic life and humans can lead to adverse health effects. Outreach surrounding safe disposal of pharmaceuticals is essential to ensure member agencies meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters. There is potential to combine water quality messaging with broader messaging surrounding health and safety to target wider audiences while still ensuring that safe disposal is the key take-away.

KEY MESSAGES

1. No Drugs Down the Drain
2. Don't Rush to Flush – Meds in the Bin, We All Win!
3. Prevent Accidental Poisoning, Drug Abuse and Water Pollution by disposing medicines properly

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Insights about proper pharmaceutical disposal included as part of dental waste discussion.	Calendar Year 2022	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

Results
Reached 112 dental trainees and instructors (per Mercury section).

NEXT STEPS

Continue to include discussions about proper disposal of pharmaceutical wastes in the outreach to dental trainees and instructors.

6. POLLUTANT: TRASH AND WIPES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Trash is a top priority due to the improper disposal of non-woven wipes and other non-flushable trash items such as hair, ear swabs and all products claiming to be biodegradable or flushable. Most consumer wipes products (labeled flushable or not) take much more time to disperse in water than toilet paper, which has caused issues for many POTWs in the Bay Area, including damage to pumping station equipment, grinders and other infrastructure, stoppages, and sanitary sewer overflows. Wipes and other non-dispersibles are also a safety issue for pump station employees that have suffered needle sticks from “deragging” pumps clogged with wipes.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Wipes Clog Pipes!
2. Toilets Aren’t Trashcans

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	As part of the dental waste discussion, speaker includes insights about microbeads and “flushable” wipes. This audience is very receptive to all BAPPG messages. More than 95% female, they are typically the primary purchaser for their families and as medical professionals, they are concerned about health and water quality.	Calendar Year 2022	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

Results
Reached 112 dental trainees and instructors (same audience reached as “Mercury” results above).

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) tracked compliance with the new California wipes labeling law and helped encourage compliance from the wipes manufacturers. They also supported the national wipes labeling law and the newly introduced legislation that would establish flushability standards for products not labeled with “Do Not Flush”.	Calendar Year 2022	N/A*

*Included above with mercury

Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 818 (Bloom): Truth in “Flushable” Wipes Labeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSAC conducted outreach to encourage compliance with the public outreach requirements of wipes manufacturers to educate consumers about the “Do Not Flush” symbol and how to properly dispose of these products. National “WIPPEs” Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSAC wrote and coordinated a national coalition sign-on letter sent in March 2022 to the producers of these products asking them to stop selling products that do not meet dispersibility requirements and follow California’s labeling of wipes as quickly as possible. NSAC also wrote and issued a press release on the coalition letter.

NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to include messages about trash and wipes when meeting with medical, hospice, and dental professionals and trainees. BAPPG will also distribute collateral during professional presentations and regional outreach events. In addition, BAPPG will collaborate on creating a video encouraging the “three P’s” (poop, pee, paper) message for flushing that can be used region-wide by all member agencies. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality.

7. POLLUTANT: PFAS

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

PFAS including PFOS and PFOA are a class of thousands of different compounds that are persistent, toxic, and bioaccumulative with multiple adverse effects on human health and the environment. People are exposed to them via household products such as food packaging, textiles, cosmetics, and personal care products. Preliminary results from a special study conducted by BACWA and the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program indicate PFAS concentrations in POTW influent as well as effluent.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Support legislation banning and/or restricting the use of PFAS substances in household products.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking & Communication	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) advocated for three Assembly bills regarding the manufacturing or sale of products containing PFAS in the State of California.	Calendar Year 2022	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AB 2771 (Friedman): PFAS in Cosmetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2025, a person or entity from manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in commerce any cosmetic product that contains intentionally added PFAS. ○ Signed onto the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) letter of support ○ Called in to express support in at least one committee hearing. ○ The bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on September 29, 2022. ● AB 2247 (Bloom): PFAS Products Disclosure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to work with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to establish, on or before January 1, 2025, a publicly accessible reporting platform to collect information about PFAS and products or product components containing intentionally added PFAS being sold, offered for sale, distributed, or imported into the State. ○ BAPPG signed onto the NSAC letter of support. ○ The bill was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2022 due to cost, staff support and State oversight responsibilities. ● AB 1817 (Ting & C. Garcia): PFAS in Textiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2025, any person from manufacturing, distributing, selling, or offering for sale in the State any textile articles that contain regulated PFAS, and requires a manufacturer to use the least toxic alternative when replacing regulated PFAS. ○ BAPPG signed onto the NSAC letter of support. ○ The bill was signed into law by the Governor on September 29, 2022.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to support legislation that requires less toxic alternatives to PFAS in various household and consumer products. BAPPG will also look for ways to collaborate on public education and scientific research related to this class of emerging contaminants.