



A Committee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credits, clockwise from top: EBMUD; Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District; Baywise.org.

COVERING REPORTING PERIOD OF 1/1/25 – 12/31/25

BAPPG CHAIR: Autumn Ross

BAPPG CO-CHAIR: Robert Wilson

BAPPG VICE CHAIR: Joe Neugebauer

PREPARED BY: Joe Neugebauer

SUBMITTED TO: Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

DATE: February 11, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a subcommittee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), is comprised of wastewater agencies from the greater Bay Area. These 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.

2025 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, campaign materials, and information on pollutants of concern.

2025-2026 BAPPG officers were selected:

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

In 2025, BACWA adopted a new membership policy via [Resolution R-25-01](#) that expands membership eligibility to agencies outside of the San Francisco Bay Water Board's jurisdiction, and allows BACWA members to participate in all BACWA committees. A full list of BACWA members, which currently includes 49 wastewater treatment agencies, is available on the BACWA website (<https://bacwa.org/members/>).

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, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

1. COPPER
2. FATS OILS AND GREASE (FOG)
3. MERCURY AND SILVER
4. PESTICIDES
5. PHARMACEUTICALS
6. TRASH AND WIPES
7. PFAS AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (CECs)

The BAPPG-hosted website [Baywise.org](#) received a major design update in 2024, so links to many online resources have changed. For members' reference, this annual report includes updated links.

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 the 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 on member agencies, and its persistence as a problem. 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 infrastructure improvements.

KEY MESSAGES

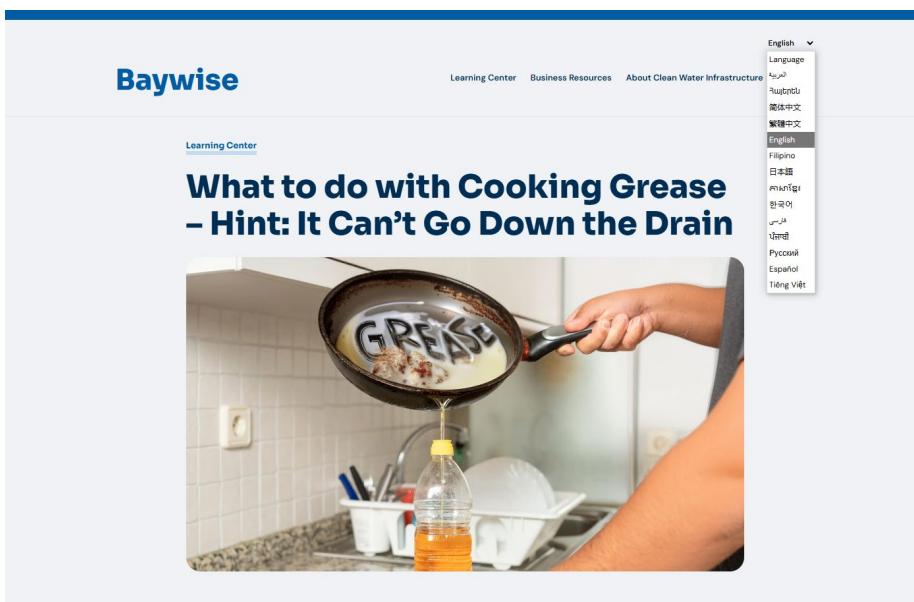
Don't pour grease down the drain – collect and recycle used cooking oil.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
Outreach: Fats, Oils, & Grease	This year, BAPPG's public outreach consultant, Sagent, launched a fall FOG campaign in both English and Spanish. The purpose of the campaign was to continue educating Bay Area residents on proper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) by running a GIF as a digital display ad and mobile overlay ad targeting residents all seven Bay Area counties in both English and Spanish. Excitant was the media partner for these digital advertisement placements.	November 10, 2025 – November 30, 2025	\$15,000

RESULTS

Digital Media Delivery							
Tactic	Planned Imps	Delivered Imps	Clicks	CTR	Total Cost	Added Value	Total Value
Digital Display	760,000	1,167,363	3,651	0.31%	\$5,588	\$4,381	\$9,969
Spanish Display	400,000	236,980	325	0.14%	\$2,941	\$588	\$3,529
English Mobile Overlay	564,706	2,080,388	6,441	0.31%	\$4,706	\$16,098	\$20,804
Spanish Mobile Overlay	211,764	441,659	519	0.12%	\$1,765	\$2,652	\$4,417
Total	1,936,469	3,926,390	10,936	0.28%	\$15,000	\$23,719	\$38,719

MATERIALS (Campaign landing page)



The screenshot shows the Baywise.org website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Learning Center', 'Business Resources', and 'About Clean Water Infrastructure'. A language selection dropdown is open, showing English as the selected option, followed by other languages: Arabic, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, English, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The main content area features a headline 'What to do with Cooking Grease' and a sub-headline '- Hint: It Can't Go Down the Drain'. Below the text is a photograph of a person's arm holding a frying pan and pouring oil into a bottle. The Baywise logo is in the top left corner.

Baywise.org continued to offer Google translation plugin. The website is **available in 14 languages**, including the most popular languages like Spanish, Chinese (both Simplified & Traditional), and Vietnamese.

MATERIALS (GIF images English and Spanish)

These images are also available for member use at <https://bacwa.org/bappg-fog/>.



MATERIALS (downloadable “FOG Checklist”)

During 2022, BAPPG developed a custom downloadable FOG checklist for residents to print and use as a reminder to properly dispose of FOG (shown at right). It continues to be available on Baywise.org under the “FOG Checklist” button and is featured on the FOG landing page (<https://baywise.org/learning-center/what-to-do-with-cooking-grease-hint-it-cant-go-down-the-drain>).

The list includes reminders for lesser-known sources of FOG such as dairy products including cheese and butter, shortening, meat fats, sauces, dressings, gravies, and icing.

Baywise.org also provides a range of resources for food service establishments regarding FOG management including BMP’s and other training materials.

KNOW YOUR FOGs

FATS • OILS • GREASES

Fats, oils, and greases, or FOGs, should never be drained in the sink because they will 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 sources you need to be aware 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 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



Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Food Related Fats, Oils and Grease		
BMP's	REASON FOR	BENEFITS
Train all staff on BMPs.	People are more willing to support an effort if they understand its basis.	Trained staff will be more likely to implement BMPs and work to reduce grease discharges to the sewer.
Post “No Grease” signs above sinks and on the front of dishwashers.	Signs serve as constant reminder for staff working in kitchens.	Reminders help minimize grease discharge to the sewer or grease removal device.
Check grease interceptor solids depth routinely. The combined thickness of the floating grease and the bottom solids should not be more than 25% of the total interceptor depth.	Grease interceptor will not meet performance standards when solids and floating grease levels exceed 25%.	This will keep grease interceptor working at peak performance.
Collect and recycled cooking oil.	These actions reduce grease loading on grease removal devices and the sewer.	This will reduce cleaning frequency and maintenance costs for grease removal devices and reduce the amount of grease entering the drain.
“Dry wipe” pots, pans, and kitchen equipment before cleaning.	“Dry wiping” will reduce the grease loading on grease removal devices and the sewer.	This will reduce cleaning frequency and maintenance costs for grease removal devices and reduce the amount of grease entering the drain.
Maintain a routine grease trap cleaning schedule.	If grease traps are not routinely cleaned, they do not work properly and do not prevent grease from entering the sewer. If the grease trap is not providing adequate protection, a grease interceptor may be required.	This reduces amount of grease entering the drain and protects sewers from grease blockages and overflows.
Use absorbent paper under fryer baskets.	This reduces the amount of grease during cleanup.	This reduces amount of grease entering the drain and protects sewers from grease blockages and overflows.
Use absorbents such as cat litter or paper towels to pick up oil and grease spills before mopping.	Decreases the amount of grease that will be put down the drain.	This reduces amount of grease entering the drain and protects sewers from grease blockages and overflows.
Do not use emulsifiers or solvents other than typical dishwashing detergents.	Emulsifiers and solvents can break down, causing a problem in the sewer downstream.	Allow for proper removal of grease.

NO GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN! KEEP DRAINS FLOWING

WIPE FOOD AND GREASE OUT OF POTS BEFORE WASHING AND DISCARD WASTE INTO THE TRASH

COLLECT AND RECYCLE USED COOKING OIL

HAVE GREASE INTERCEPTORS AND TRAPS CLEANED ON A ROUTINE SCHEDULE

USE ABSORBENTS TO CLEAN UP GREASY SPILLS BEFORE MOPPING

WHEN KITCHEN DRAINS ARE FLOWING, BUSINESS KEEPS FLOWING TOO.

NEXT STEPS

Staff from member agencies and the BAPPG outreach consultant will continue to monitor and update Baywise.org with relevant information. BAPPG will evaluate whether a FOG campaign is needed in

2026; the group may focus on updating outdated outreach materials instead of a traditional outreach campaign.

3. POLLUTANT: MERCURY AND SILVER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Outreach regarding best management practices 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 of 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 USEPA is mandating the installation of amalgam separators and the use of several key BMPs that were originally developed and piloted in the Bay Area.
5. Provide support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and legislation that limits or bans the sale of products that contain toxic pollutants when safer and effective alternatives are available.

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.	Calendar Year 2025	\$3,000

RESULTS

Reached approximately 130 students and instructors at the following in-person site visits:

- San Jose City College (2 visits)
- Foothill College, Los Altos
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- College of Marin, Novato

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a 501c4 nonprofit network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses, and consumers who advocate that producers fairly share responsibility to achieve a responsible, circular economy.	Calendar Year 2025	\$10,000

RESULTS

- The National Stewardship Action Council set a new standard for clean lighting by sponsoring and passing AB 2208 (Asm. Kalra & Sen. Becker) in 2022, a law in California that prohibits, on and after January 1, 2024, a screw or bayonet base type compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), as defined, and, on and after January 1, 2025, a pin-base type compact fluorescent lamp or a linear fluorescent lamp (LFL), as defined, from being offered for final sale, sold at final sale, or distributed in this state as a new manufactured product.
 - As of January 1, 2025, AB 2208 went into effect. NSAC partnered with NRG Incentives to transition businesses away from these harmful products and created [SafeLighting.us](https://safelighting.us). SafeLighting is committed to eliminating toxic mercury lighting and accelerating the transition to clean, energy-efficient LED solutions. Backed by NSAC, SafeLighting works with businesses, policymakers, and communities to phase out fluorescent lamps, reduce environmental hazards, and create a safer, more sustainable future. NRG Incentives is a full-service commercial lighting company specializing in energy-efficient LED upgrades. From design to installation, they help businesses cut energy costs while securing incentives and financing options to make the switch seamless. LEDs are five times more efficient than traditional lighting and last more than twice as long, leading to significant savings in maintenance and energy costs.

MATERIALS

Pollution prevention guidance for dental offices at <https://baywise.org/business-resources/pollution-prevention-guidance-for-dental-offices>

NEXT STEPS

Continue to provide a guest speaker to local colleges. The instructors have come to rely on these annual visits and have incorporated BAPPG's program into their instructional calendar. Further, this is a relevant audience for other messages, such as wipes and pharmaceutical waste. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 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, due to low pollutant removal efficiencies at treatment plants, can lead to aquatic ecosystem degradation, as well as potential concerns with NPDES permit compliance, biosolids, and water reuse.

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 pesticide regulators to improve their ability to address down-the-drain pathways to wastewater treatment plants during pesticide registration, support their monitoring efforts, and 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.	Calendar Year 2025	\$10,000

RESULTS	
Annual Program Implementation July 2024 – June 2025	
Retail Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained strong corporate partnership with Home Depot's corporate office to facilitate statewide The Home Depot participation. Continued the seasonal e-Newsletter during Spring and Fall for retail staff to learn about current pest problems and eco-friendly solutions. 	
Retail Trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 retail training conducted with 266 retail staff trained. 	
Direct to Consumer Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 211 public outreach events Approximately 6,296 people attended these outreach events (in person and virtually) 1,879 QR code scans from the QR code poster outreach product. 	
Trade Show Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWOW representatives attended the following trade shows to meet vendors and suppliers to learn about new products entering the California marketplace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BFG Marketplace Expo, Reno NV 	
Program Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three fact sheets (Moles, Voles, and Gophers, Finding a Pest Control Company, and Snails and Slugs) were updated for technical accuracy and translated to Spanish (completed December 2025). CASQA developed an OWOW Resources folder and hosted two In-Store Coordination Trainings to train and introduce municipal staff and contractors unfamiliar with the OWOW program on the retail store element. To support statewide scalability and long-term sustainability, the OWOW program is currently undergoing a structured planning process. This effort includes a subscriber survey and market research to inform the development of a comprehensive Program Plan that defines the program's goals, strategies, and implementation tactics. This effort will be completed by year end 2026. 	

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
Flea & Tick Outreach to Veterinarians and the Community	Evaluate flea and tick 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 2025	\$14,500

RESULTS

The following 4-part outreach workplan for 2025-2027 was approved by BAPPG in early 2025; below are the key efforts for 2025.

A. Update Colleagues	B. Regulatory Communication	C. Communicate with Veterinary Leadership	D. Continued BAPPG Outreach
Educate wastewater colleagues on our outreach efforts to date, our findings from the veterinary community, and proposed next steps	Focus on several branches of DPR and the DTSC Safer Consumer Products Program Discuss opportunities and challenges based on findings from the veterinary community Seek opportunities to collaborate and/or pilot projects	Engage with the Veterinary Leadership – Bay Area and nationally Focus on One Health, sustainability, vet toxicologists and vet parasitologists	Replicate Palo Alto's municipal shelter outreach Reach out to local veterinary tech community colleges Media, ad, and online campaigns Reach out to Bay Area chains

A. Update Colleagues

- Presentations were provided to BAPPG and the BACWA Board

B. Regulatory Communications

- Drafted written analysis of the 2024 BACWA veterinary survey (completed by 637 US veterinarians, including 73 California vets) providing compelling evidence of the complexity of flea and tick control.
 - This draft analysis was presented to DPR's Sustainable Pest Management division, as part of an effort to obtain grant funding for further outreach with veterinarians and others.
 - This draft analysis will also be submitted to DPR's Surface Water Protection Program along with BACWA's February 2026 comments to DPR's Draft Aquatic Risk Assessment for On-Pet Fipronil Uses
- BACWA staff and consultants communicated regularly with DPR's Sustainable Pest Management division about possible funding of SPM pilot outreach projects. Communication is ongoing and may yet lead to funding in 2026-2028.

C. Veterinary Professionals

- Continued communications with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
 - Prepared an abstract that was subsequently approved for the 2026 AVMA Conference in Anaheim, CA. The abstract, titled A New Era of Responsible Pet Parasiticide Use, was co-written with Dr. Jane Sykes, a world-renowned veterinarian and professor at UC Davis Veterinary Medical School.
 - Facilitated 3 meetings with the AVMA's Committee on Environmental Issues
 - Discussed latest wastewater influent and effluent pesticide monitoring results published by the DPR
 - Answered questions about fate and transport of pesticides indoors.
 - Discussed opportunities for pilot projects and veterinary communication via DPR's Sustainable Pest Management grant opportunities.
- BACWA's consultant, Stephanie Hughes, was selected for the position of Environmental Specialist on the international One Health Committee of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association
- BACWA successfully renewed their application to provide 1.0 CE 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.

D. Continued BAPPG Outreach

- A suite of materials is available online for BAPPG members to replicate Palo Alto's municipal shelter outreach¹

Foothill College has indicated they would like a presentation for their veterinary technician students in Spring 2026.

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 (USEPA) 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 USEPA and DPR re-registration reviews• educating staff from DPR and USEPA about local pesticide pollution data and concerns;• engaging in scientific and management conversations with USEPA and DPR regarding	Calendar Year 2025	\$74,000

¹ Materials are available at <https://bacwa.org/bappg-pesticides/flea-and-tick-outreach-toolkits/>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
	<p>new scientific evidence linking pet flea control treatments and fipronil and imidacloprid in POTW effluent; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submitting comment letters during the pesticide re-registration process through BACWA 		

RESULTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracked pesticide-related regulatory activities by USEPA 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, we made recommendations regarding regulatory participation or other follow-up steps on multiple USEPA and DPR actions. Met with DPR technical staff to obtain updates regarding their scientific wastewater monitoring and modeling studies. Submitted comment letters to the USEPA which explained the pesticide transport route to the sanitary sewer and related scientific studies for priority pesticides:² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submitted one letter regarding a priority pesticide with indoor uses and pathways to the sewer: isocycloseram coordinated with NACWA and six other statewide water associations to submit a letter regarding the procedures for chemical risk evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act Coordinated and provided scientific support for communications with USEPA 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. Submitted a letter to CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regarding quaternary ammonia compounds that are used indoors and have pesticidal properties but are not regulated by DPR. Evaluated outcomes of BACWA input to USEPA 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 (NACWA) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff. Provided staff support during the meetings and an action item list after each meeting. 	

² The BACWA USEPA pesticide comment letters can be found at <https://bacwa.org/document-category/comment-letters/>

MATERIALS

Baywise

English ▾

Learning Center Business Resources About Clean Water Infrastructure About Us

Business Resources

Pollution Prevention Guidance for Veterinarians



Pollution prevention guidance for veterinarians was updated in 2024 and is at <https://baywise.org/business-resources/pollution-prevention-guidance-for-veterinarians/>.

Baywise

English ▾

Learning Center Business Resources About Clean Water Infrastructure About Us

Learning Center

Protect Your Pets, Your Family, and the Bay



Pollution prevention guidance for pet owners was updated in 2024 is at <https://baywise.org/learning-center/protect-your-pets-your-family-and-the-bay/>.

Outreach materials for members' use in flea- and tick-related outreach to veterinarians and the public are available <https://bacwa.org/bappg-pesticides/flea-and-tick-outreach-toolkits/>.

NEXT STEPS

With respect to outreach, BAPPG will continue to coordinate with the AVMA and DPR and will continue with the 4-pronged outreach workplan. With regards to regulatory issues, the workgroup will continue to track and comment on the USEPA and DPR re-registration process.

5. POLLUTANT: PHARMACEUTICALS

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Pharmaceuticals can enter waterways through improper disposal into wastewater streams (e.g., flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet). Many 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 takeaway.

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 2025	N/A*

**Included above with mercury and silver*

RESULTS

Reached 130 dental trainees and instructors (per Mercury section).

MATERIALS



The image displays two screenshots of websites related to medication disposal. The top screenshot is for "MED-Project" (Medication Education & Disposal), showing a search bar for zip codes and a graphic of various medicine bottles and containers. The bottom screenshot is for "Baywise", specifically the "Safely Disposing of Medication" section, showing a woman standing in a CVS pharmacy aisle, holding a bag of medications to dispose of.

Baywise.org continues to offer information on proper disposal of medications including links to the MED-project and Don't Rush to Flush program at <https://baywise.org/learning-center/safely-disposing-of-medication/>.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to include discussions about proper disposal of pharmaceutical wastes in the outreach to dental trainees and instructors. Continue to coordinate with the pesticides subcommittee regarding disposal of pet medicines.

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 Bay Area wastewater systems, 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 “de-ragging” pumps clogged with wipes.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Wipes Clog Pipes!
2. Toilets Aren't Trashcans
3. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging

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 2025	N/A*

**Included above with mercury and silver*

RESULTS

Reached 130 dental trainees and instructors (same audience reached as “Mercury” results above)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses and consumers who advocate that producers fairly share responsibility to achieve a responsible, circular economy.	Calendar Year 2025	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

RESULTS

- National “WIPPES” Act
 - Modeled after California’s AB 818 (Bloom), which was co-sponsored by NSAC, the bicameral, bipartisan introduction of H.R. 2269: Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act (2025) by Representatives Lisa McClain (D-MI) and Kevin Mullin (D-CA) and S. 1092 WIPPES Act (2025) by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Susan Collins (R-ME) occurred on March 25, 2025. These bills will address health, ecosystem, and wastewater infrastructure concerns caused by the flushing of non-flushable wet wipes and will require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes.
 - On June 24, 2025, HR.2269 was received in the Senate. On September 19, 2025, S.1092 was placed on Senate Legislative calendar under General Orders.
 - In June 2025, BAPPG signed a coalition letter of support for this legislation.
 - Collaboration with the Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA)
 - RFA is an independent, nonprofit trade association committed to educating consumers about responsible and smart flushing habits, to reduce damage to our nation’s sewage systems, formed in response to AB 818’s Consumer Education and Outreach Program requirements. AB 818 requires covered entities to “participate in a collection study conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies for the purpose of gaining understanding of consumer behavior regarding the flushing of premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes and to conduct a comprehensive multimedia education and outreach program in the state.” The Outreach Program will continue until January 1, 2027.
 - Collaboration with RFA and NSAC included promotion in NSAC’s newsletter and social media platforms of Flush Smart Day, a nationwide observance established via AB 818, to recognize every July 1st as an opportunity to educate the public on what not to flush.
 - NSAC works nationally to promote “Truth in Labeling” of anything that is flushable, biodegradable, recyclable, compostable, reusable, etc... We are constantly educating and, in the media, speaking about the need for the federal and state governments to ensure consumers are not misinformed as to the end-of-life management of a product by “lying on the label”.

MATERIALS

BAPPG signed on to a support letter for the WIPPES Act and can be found here: <https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/WIPPES-Act-S1092-Coalition-Letter-for-5-21-Markup-Record.pdf>

NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to include messages about trash and wipes when meeting with medical, hospice, and dental professionals and trainees. BAPPG will distribute collateral during professional presentations and regional outreach events. 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 & OTHER CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (CECs)

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. Results from a special study conducted by BACWA and the San Francisco Estuary Institute quantified PFAS concentrations in wastewater treatment plant influent, effluent, and biosolids. The final report was completed in December 2023 and found that PFAS in wastewater can be traced back primarily to residential sources, with limited additional inputs from commercial and industrial sources.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Support legislation banning and/or restricting the use of PFAS substances in household products.
2. Support legislation addressing other emerging contaminants of concern.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
PFAS – the uninvited guest campaign	This year, BAPPG's public outreach consultant, Sagent, launched a Spring PFAS campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to engage and inform Bay Area residents on how to keep PFAS out of their homes, products and water. Mobile Ad Messenger and digital display ads were run across all seven Bay Area counties in both English and Spanish. ViaMedia was the media partner for these digital advertisement placements.	April 21 – May 18, 2025	\$20,000

RESULTS

Digital Display and Mobile Ad Messenger:

April 21 – April 30, 2025

- Impressions:
 - Digital Display: 515,356
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 343,311
- Clicks:
 - Digital Display: 493
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 11,207

- Click through rate:
 - Digital Display: 0.10%
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 3.26%

May 1, - May 18, 2025:

- Impressions:
 - Digital Display: 841,530
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 540,993
- Clicks:
 - Digital Display: 1,056
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 17,154
- Click through rate:
 - Digital Display: 0.13%
 - Mobile Ad Messenger: 3.17%

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BUDGET
Regulatory Tracking & Communication	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) and the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) advocated for several Assembly bills regarding the manufacturing or sale of products containing PFAS and microplastics in the State of California. BACWA and other BAPPG members also signed letters of support for PFAS legislation (SB 682).	Calendar Year 2025	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

RESULTS

In 2025, NSAC and CPSC strongly supported and promoted bills in the CA Legislature that would ban the use of PFAS and microplastics including:

- SB 682 (Allen) banning the sale of products with PFAS (VETOED)
- AB 823 (Boerner) banning the sale of products with microbeads or glitter in products used as an abrasive to clean, exfoliate or polish in a non-rinse off product (VETOED).
- AB 1181 (Haney) for phasing out PFAS in firefighting gear (PASSED)

SB 682 (Allen) would have banned PFAS from six categories of consumer products: cleaning products, cookware, dental floss, juvenile products, food packaging, and ski wax. BACWA signed a [coalition letter of support](#) for the legislation, and many BAPPG member agencies also separately advocated for its passage.

NSAC sponsored an additional bill in 2025 that could help improve Bay Area water quality. [SB 501 \(Allen\)](#), as introduced in February 2025, would have ensured producers share in the responsibility of managing the most costly and dangerous household hazardous waste (HHW) products, such as pesticides, aerosols, oxidizers, cleaners, adhesives, solvents, lubricants, compressed gas, lithium

batteries, and vapes. These products require special handling and disposal because of the risks they pose to the environment if improperly thrown in the trash, poured down storm drains, or released into the environment. The legislation was also supported by the CPSC and may be revised in the 2025-2026 session.

The National Stewardship Action Council convenes national, cross-sector [working groups](#) that support organizations navigating circular economy policies, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation, and scalable circular economy solutions. This includes the Household Hazardous Waste Working Group which addresses high-risk products and toxic contamination that impact worker safety, community health, and system performance. Current focus areas include batteries and battery-containing products, vapes and e-cigarettes, marine flares, toxic contamination across the waste, and recycling stream. It also includes a Packaging Working Group which works to reduce litter and microplastics, and a new Textile Working Group which also addresses microplastics and textile waste and chemical composition.

MATERIALS



[PFAS: The Uninvited Guest - Baywise](#)

BAPPG continues to maintain the PFAS webpage on Baywise.org that provides information and resources to the public. Technical documentation related to PFAS is available at <https://bacwa.org/pfas-links/>.

NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to support the NSAC as they look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality. BAPPG and BACWA will also continue to partner with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Water Board, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to identify consumer products with PFAS that have a potential nexus to wastewater, stormwater, and surface waters like San Francisco Bay. BACWA is also currently planning the next phase of a regional PFAS study to be conducted in 2026-2027, with an expected focus on sources of PFAS within sewersheds.