



B A C W A
BAY AREA
CLEAN WATER
AGENCIES

BACWA COMMITTEES 2025-26 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reporting Period: July 2025 through April 2026

Air Issues & Regulations (AIR) Committee

Chairs:

Nohemy Revilla



Jason Nettleton



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Prepared and submitted formal comments on the Bay Area Air District’s proposed amendments to Rule 11-18 addressing the procedures for timely preparation of Health Risk Assessments for toxic air pollution.
- Met regularly with Bay Area Air District staff to discuss topics such as air toxics monitoring, source test procedures, standard permit conditions, staffing, inspections, the Air District’s Permit Efficiency Taskforce, and the Air District’s Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program.
- Facilitated participation of three BACWA member agencies in an early phase of the Air District’s Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program to expedite permit processing.
- Provided member updates on changes to the state’s Advanced Clean Fleets regulations.
- Shared information about phase-out of specific Tier 2 and Tier 3 portable engines. Tracked CARB’s development of Tier 5 rulemaking for off-road diesel engines.
- Engaged with members, Air District, California Air Resources Board (CARB) and California Association of Sanitation of Agencies (CASA) on compliance with updated air toxics reporting per AB 617 (reporting) & AB 2588 (inventorying). CASA continues to lead a statewide pooled emissions study to develop emission factors for wastewater treatment facilities.
- Held a committee tour at West County Wastewater District to learn about the District’s Clean & Green Program.
- Provided technical support on climate pollutants. Hosted a guest speaker on fugitive methane research involving wastewater systems. Coordinated with Air District staff on preparation of an anaerobic digestion white paper, and hosted a speaker on nitrous oxide emissions.

Asset Management Committee

Chairs:

Mohammad Ghoury



Amanda Roa



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Hosted a presentation on lessons learned from a condition assessment of a 24-inch sanitary sewer force main.
- Transitioned committee leadership to new co-chairs.
- Held February 2026 in-person workshop at West County Wastewater District. Facilitated roundtable discussion about asset management topics such as use of CMMS software, integrating asset management into the design process, staffing, and challenges with assessing risk at the system level.

BACWA COMMITTEES 2025-26 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bay Area Biosolids Coalition

Chairs: **Rebecca Overacre** **Ryan Batjiaka** **Nora Cibrian** **Joe Neugebauer**



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Integrated the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition (BABC) into BACWA as a regular committee.
- Provided regular progress updates on BABC’s strategic plan, including updates on communications, BABC website content, and land application regulatory topics.
- Hosted guest speakers on biosolids research, with a particular focus on PFAS removal through developing technologies such as thermal drying, foam fractionation, and microbial remediation.
- Provided updates on BABC-funded research projects like the National Collaborative PFAS Project.
- Provided a forum for peer-to-peer sharing on regional biosolids planning, such as Central San’s Solids Regionalization Evaluation.
- Held a committee tour at Silicon Valley Clean Water highlighting the agency’s Bioforcetech biodryers and pyrolysis facilities.
- Prepared comment letters on Solano County’s PFAS study report by Trihydro and Assembly Bill 643

Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group

Chairs:

Autumn Ross



Robert Wilson



Vice-Chair:

Joe Neugebauer



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Continued to host Baywise.org website for pollution prevention outreach.
- Hosted committee presentations on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs), pet pesticides, and science communication and outreach materials available from SFEI’s Regional Monitoring Program.
- Provided training on marketing best practices, with a focus on digital campaigns.
- Discussed committee priorities for public outreach campaign budget, and selected a prioritized list of pollutants for public outreach in FY27.
- Supported a subcommittee to direct pesticide regulatory advocacy. Submitted comment letters to USEPA regarding registration of the pesticide isocycloseram and on chemical risk evaluations performed under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Engaged with the California Dept. of Pesticide Registration on routine monitoring of pet pesticides in wastewater, and implementation of the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap. Coordinated with veterinary professionals regarding the water quality risks of flea and tick pet pesticides.
- Completed fall public outreach campaign on Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and spring public outreach campaign on pet pesticides.
- Continued outreach messages to professionals on topical pet treatments and best management of dental waste streams.
- Held a joint meeting with the BACWA Pretreatment Committee to discuss topics of mutual interest such as dental mercury programs, PFAS source control, FOG, and nutrients.

BACWA COMMITTEES 2025-26 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collection Systems Committee

Chairs:

Tracy Heidersbach



Dana Lawson



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Held educational presentations for members regarding wildfire response & recovery, San Mateo County climate resilience guidance for public infrastructure, and GIS tools for wastewater utilities.
- Hosted a Regional Water Board presentation on sanitary sewer systems from the regulator's perspective.
- Tracked new regulations being developed by the California Underground Safety Board on geolocation of underground utilities.
- Facilitated member discussions on topics such as private sewer lateral inspections and the impacts of King Tides.
- Hosted an in-person meeting and tour at Ross Valley Sanitary District's new facility in San Rafael.
- Updated members on requirements related to compliance with the reissued statewide General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS-WDR), focusing on submittal of GIS service area boundary map information.

Laboratory Committee

Chairs:

Brittany

Rossi Worthen



Payal Sarkar



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Provided a space for members to share information about complying with ELAP certification and TNI requirements. Members shared findings from recent audits and held detailed discussions on quality control requirements for the Enterolert method.
- Hosted a series of BACWA member-led presentations on laboratory analysis of nutrients, including presentations on automation of total phosphorus analysis; flow injection analysis; and spectrophotometric methods for nitrate + nitrite and total phosphorus.
- Toured City of Petaluma's Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility during a joint event with the BACWA Permits Committee.
- Shared tips on complying with State reporting requirements, such as uploading data to CIWQS and responding to DMR-QA study requirements.
- Hosted a tour and roundtable discussions at the Water Quality Lab at Valley Water in San Jose, an ELAP-accredited facility that tests for over 400 regulated and unregulated contaminants.
- Discussed individual agency experiences with chronic toxicity screening studies and other regulatory developments related to the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST).
- Shared updates from ELAP, including plans for voluntary full TNI accreditation and FOA tables for BACWA member agencies.
- Hosted a member presentation on software automation of data processing tasks for GS-MS analytical results.
- Connected members with opportunities for laboratory training, such as activated sludge microscopy training

BACWA COMMITTEES 2025-26 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Operations & Maintenance

Chairs:

Yanming Zhang



Ben Carver



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- ❑ Hosted a tour of the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) treatment plant, including CMSA’s food waste and FOG receiving stations. Learned about CMSA’s 15-year journey to achieving energy-positive wastewater treatment and supporting SB1383 climate goals of diverting food waste from landfills.
- ❑ Held a tour of the City of Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant. Members learned about ongoing upgrades to the plant’s secondary treatment system, and shared experiences with coordinating construction shutdowns. Participants discussed experiences with BayWork's stacking internship program.

Permits Committee

Chairs:

Blake Brown



Chris Dembiczak



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- ❑ Nutrients Watershed Permit – Provided regular updates on BACWA’s activities supporting permit compliance, such as preparation of the Group Annual Report and coordination with the Regional Water Board on a draft Basin Plan Amendment. Provided technical support related to the permit’s monitoring and reporting requirements, particularly the new reporting for 5-month dry season TIN loads. Individual agency shared their plans for permit compliance, including treatment upgrades, optimization, and nature-based solutions.
- ❑ Supreme Court Ruling in *City and County of San Francisco v. EPA* – Kept members updated on revisions to NPDES permit language triggered by the removal of receiving water limitations.
- ❑ Electronic Reporting – Discussed compliance with electronic reporting requirements, including bypass reporting and protocols for rounding. Shared issues with federal DMR reporting.
- ❑ PFAS – Provided updates on state legislation and planned scientific studies.
- ❑ Dilution Modeling – Hosted a comprehensive, consultant-led training session on dilution study requirements for San Francisco Bay region NPDES permits.
- ❑ Climate Change – Kept members informed about a planned update to the Regional Water Board’s 2021 climate change information request sent to NPDES permittees.
- ❑ Chronic Toxicity – Shared information about a California court case related to the Test of Significant Toxicity. Discussed results of chronic toxicity screening studies and chronic toxicity language in individual NPDES permits.
- ❑ Toured City of Petaluma’s Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility during a joint event with the BACWA Laboratory Committee.

Pretreatment Committee

Chairs:

Casey Fitzgerald



Adam Kern



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Members shared insights from a recent Pretreatment Compliance Audit from USEPA and State Water Board staff. Discussed resources and best practices for preparing for audits, such as in-house mock audits.
- Continued to compile and share programmatic information about Bay Area pretreatment programs among members.
- Held a roundtable discussion on training, with a particular focus on training new inspectors that may be new to the industry.
- Held a joint meeting with the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) to discuss topics of mutual interest such as dental mercury programs, PFAS source control, FOG programs, and nutrients.
- Shared relevant PFAS regulatory updates, such as the Regional Water Board’s new Environmental Screening Levels for PFAS compounds and a new NPDES permit with effluent limitations for groundwater dischargers.

Recycled Water Committee

Chairs:

Stefanie Olson



**Dublin San Ramon
Services District**

Water, wastewater, recycled water

Sarah Rosenberg



2025-26 Accomplishments:

- Hosted member presentations on EBMUD’s Recycled Water Strategic Plan, the Pure Water Silicon Valley direct potable reuse pilot project, and the City of Burlingame’s recycled water and wastewater discharge reduction project.
- Held a discussion on permitting considerations for trucked recycled water, including considerations for crossing jurisdictional boundaries.
- Provided BACWA updates on recycled water related to compliance with the Nutrients Watershed Permit. Nitrogen load reductions due to recycled water diversions are one pathway towards permit compliance.
- Held a roundtable discussion on inspection practices for recycled water use sites, then developed a member survey on recycled water program administration topics such as site supervisor training, self-monitoring and inspections, cross connection testing, and related topics. Shared the results of the survey with committee members.
- Shared information about State and federal funding opportunities.
- Educated members on development of new State regulations regarding onsite nonpotable reuse
- Supported and promoted members’ use of Site Supervisor training videos that the committee created in 2023.