



Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

Leading the Way to Protect Our Bay

A Joint Powers Public Agency

P.O. Box 24055, MS 702

Oakland, California 94623

January 9, 2009

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Bruce Wolfe, Executive Officer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Submittal of Annual Reports by BACWA Members on Participation in the RMP, TMDLs and SSOs

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Many of the municipal clean water agencies NPDES permits require participation in the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Site Specific Objectives (SSO) as well as collection of ambient data. The purpose of this letter is to describe how Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) members participate in the TMDL and SSO programs. Attached is a letter from Meg Sedlak from SFEI about our participation in the RMP program.

TMDLs

BACWA member agencies make financial contributions to a water quality attainment fund for the support of joint projects with the Water Board and other partners for water quality attainment strategies, TMDLs and site specific objectives. Over the last year BACWA members have continued to participate in two specific aspects of the development of TMDLs:

- 1) BACWA contributed on third to the \$ 128,865.00 of the FY 2007-08 contract with ABAG which provided a full time staff person to the Water Board for administrative and regulatory support of the PCB TMDL. BACWA extended the contract for an additional 90 days into FY 2008-09 to ensure that the administrative record for the PCB TMDL was completed and transmitted to Sacramento. This was paid for entirely by BACWA at a cost of \$31,250.
- 2) BACWA has contributed on third the cost to the continued work through the Clean Estuary Project of the Multibox Model. This project has a value of

\$250,505.44 and include a contract with Applied Marine Sciences (and numerous subcontracts) and a separate BACWA contract with USGS.

Over the calendar year 2008, BACWA worked closely with the Water Board and BASMAA to close out the Clean Estuary Project. This entailed numerous review of the contracts, purchase orders, invoices and financial reports in order to full reconcile the accounts. A disbursement was made of some of the unused funds from long completed projects. The CEP continues as an entity until the Multi Box model is completed and BACWA continues to manage the invoices and accounts for the CEP.

Although not a TMDL project, BACWA set up and financially supported an independent panel to review an Issue Paper on Dioxin. The panel members were, Vic Bierman of LimnoTech, Geoff Grubbs, an independent consultant and Keith Linn an Environmental Specialist from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. This panel was convened by the San Francisco Estuary Institute in February 2008, with the support of the Water Board and EPA Region 9. The panel provided an independent yet knowledgeable assessment of dioxin concerns for the San Francisco Bay. Dioxin is a listed as causing impairment of the San Francisco Bay uses. The panel provided a technical memorandum of their findings on April 4, 2008.


SSOs

BACWA member agencies made significant financial and other support to the development of the Copper SSO, the Cyanide SSO for the San Francisco Bay. Both SSOs which were fully adopted by the State of California and EPA in 2007 and 2008.

BACWA members own and operate publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) that discharge to the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. Collectively BACWA members serve nearly 7 million people in the nine county Bay Area region treating all domestic, commercial and a significant amount of industrial wastewater. BACWA was formed to develop a region-wide understanding of the watershed protection and enhancement needs through reliance of sound technical, scientific, environmental and economic information and to ensure this understanding leads to long-term stewardship of the San Francisco Bay Estuary. BACWA member agencies are public agencies, governed by elected officials and managed by professionals who are dedicated to protecting our environment and the public health.

Please let me know if there is any other information you need regarding this particular requirement in the permits.

Sincerely:



Michele M Pla
Executive Director