



Executive Board Special Meeting

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM & NUTRIENTS

The Regional Monitoring Program, funded by Bay dischargers, is an adaptive, long term program that conducts monitoring to support management of San Francisco Bay. It conducts regular status and trends monitoring and undertakes pilot and special studies focused on responding to management priorities and advancing scientific understanding. The RMP has five workgroups (Sources, Pathways and Loadings, Exposure and Effects, Contaminant Fate, Emerging Contaminants, and Sport Fish Contaminant). Activities of the workgroups, and technical content of the program as a whole, are overseen by the Technical Review Committee. The Steering Committee determines the overall budget, allocates program funds, tracks progress, and provides direction to the Program from a manager's perspective.

In February 2011 the Steering Committee met to discuss the long-term plan for the RMP and guidance for special studies for 2012-2016. Assuming no changes in funding levels, approximately 60% of the funding available for special studies is tentatively allocated for small tributary loading studies from 2011 through 2015.

In terms of nutrient-related monitoring needs, SWAMP funding for Suisun Bay monitoring is limited (and currently being supplemented by substantial funding from CCCSD, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, and BACWA), and it is unclear where funding will come for continuing Jim Cloern's work and completing and implementing numeric nutrient endpoints.

Discussion Questions:

- Do the current special studies priorities reflect those of the Water Board and BACWA agencies?
- Can and should RMP special studies be supplemented in order to undertake nutrient work, or is it currently sufficient?
- Can and should the RMP Nutrient Strategy serve as the structure for organizing and coordinating all nutrient-related efforts (Suisun Bay monitoring, NNE development, phytoplankton trends)?

PCBS

On March 9, 2011, the Regional Water Board adopted an amendment to the Watershed Permit to incorporate PCBs. The permit requires analyzing effluent samples using Method 1668c, a low-detection limit method that has not yet been formally approved by EPA. The Method 1668c monitoring is required to help the Regional Water Board refine the Wasteload Allocations in the TMDL. Compliance with the effluent limits in the permit are to be determined using Method 608. Sampling with Method 1668 will begin approximately in June. To help ensure that the data collected is of acceptable quality and to assist POTWs in communicating with contract laboratories, BACWA is working with the Regional Water Board to prepare a Sampling, Analysis and Reporting Protocol. One outstanding question regarding

reporting is how agencies will be required to report the results, including qualifiers, for each of the 209 congeners. Possible options include inputting the individual results into the State and Regional databases or allowing agencies to attach laboratory reports as PDF files.

Discussion Questions:

- Are there any outstanding issues/concerns raised by the Protocol?
- If electronic reporting is required, how will concerns about transcription errors and communicating qualified data be addressed?
- If a PDF file attachment is allowed, what additional information – and on what timeframe – will the Regional Water Board need to inform refinement of the TMDL WLAs?

SELENIUM

In January of 2011 the Regional Water Board completed its Preliminary TMDL Report for North San Francisco Bay. The schedule for completing the TMDL has been postponed until EPA promulgates its California-wide wildlife criteria, a draft of which is expected later this year.

Per a request from the Regional Water Board, BACWA has undertaken a study to characterize the speciation of selenium in POTW effluent. The study results should be available this summer/fall.

Discussion Questions:

- Status of EPA's rulemaking and anticipated impacts on the TMDL?
- Plans for TMDL development for other parts of the Bay?

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REGULATIONS

The State Water Board has issued a draft Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, with comments due on April 29. Some of the key changes include: requiring reporting of spills from privately owned lateral; a prohibition on spills that reach surface waters; an expansion of "surface waters" to include spills to stormdrains that are not fully recovered; expands the SSMP requirements; development of performance targets and illustration of trends in frequency and volume vis-à-vis those targets; and submittal of audit reports.

Discussion Questions:

- What information about Bay Area sanitary sewer systems does the Regional Water Board need that it cannot obtain from the current WDR?

- What concerns exist about the draft revisions to the WDR?

e-SMR

As of April 30, seven POTWs, including all five BACWA Principals, were required to begin reporting monitoring information to the State Board's e-SMR module of CIWQS. The Regional Water Board's key staff member for ERS, Johnson Lam, will be retiring at the end of May, leaving a gap in terms of electronic reporting for smaller agencies who have not yet made the transition to e-SMR.

Discussion Questions:

- Based on member agencies' experiences with the April 30 reporting deadline, what concerns exist about e-SMR? What assistance may be required for small POTWs?
- Will the Regional Water Board be able to obtain all the information it needs (for reasonable potential, enforcement, etc.) from e-SMR?
- What interim measures need to be taken between now and the time in which all agencies begin reporting to e-SMR?

CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN

Several efforts are underway to understand the sources, impacts and control options for contaminants of emerging concern in aquatic environments. USEPA's Office of Water and Office of Research and Development's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup prepared a 2008 White Paper on Aquatic Life Criteria for Contaminants of Emerging Concern, the State Water Board has convened two panels on CECs (one for recycled water and one for coastal and marine ecosystems), and the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) has an Emerging Contaminants Workgroup that meets quarterly to review information on CECs in the Bay and recommend future studies to the Steering and Technical Review Committees.

Discussion Questions:

- What research in terms of quantifying the presence and impacts of ECs in the Bay is needed that is not likely to be addressed by the RMP?
- What assistance do agencies need in order to understand the impacts of emerging contaminants on their facilities and to communicate with their ratepayers?