

BAY AREA CLEAN WATER AGENCY 2012 COMMITTEES

BACWA's seven committees and three information-sharing groups facilitate communication among member agencies, keep agency staff apprised of important regulatory and policy developments, provide a venue to establish regional collaboration, and help ensure that the Bay Area clean water community speaks with a unified voice. Visit the BACWA website to confirm the dates and times of meetings and contact the people listed below to be added to any distribution lists for the committee.

AIR ISSUES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

The AIR Committee keeps members informed about air quality related issues, research and regulations affecting the operation and maintenance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). Together, member agencies treat over ninety percent of the municipal wastewater in the San Francisco Bay Area. Committee activities include tracking and responding to changes in regulations relating to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate change adaptation, and stationary source rule development.

Contacts:

Randy Schmidt, Committee Chair, rshmidt@centralsan.org

Jim Sandoval, Consultant, jim.sandoval@ch2m.com

Divya Bhargava, Consultant, divya.bhargava@ch2m.com

Meeting Information:

The committee meets quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m. Tentative 2012 dates are January 25, April 18, July 18, and October 17.

2011 Highlights:

- The 2011 Annual Spring Newsletter, regular committee-wide emails, the AIR website, and updated AIR Issues matrix provided members with current information on regulatory issues including:
 - Changes to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Rules regulating engines and boilers;
 - Changes to the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) in-use, off-road diesel regulation; and
 - Final federal air toxic standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and process heaters.
- Committee meetings in 2011 featured a discussion with BAAQMD Engineering Director, Brian Bateman and a presentation/tour of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and bio-energy/fuels renewable programs at San Francisco's Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Comment letters were submitted to the CARB regarding the revised California Mandatory Reporting Rule and Cap-and-Trade Rule for GHG emissions, and to the California Bay Conservation Development Commission highlighting concerns about the Bay Plan Amendment.
- In coordination with the California Wastewater Climate Change Group (CWCCG), the committee tracked state and national climate change issues including:

- Modifications to the California Environmental Quality Act for GHG emissions;
- CARB Mandatory GHG Reporting and Cap-and-Trade Programs;
- EPA Mandatory GHG Reporting Program;
- EPA GHG Tailoring Rule, which regulates GHGs under the Clean Air Act; and
- Renewable energy advocacy for the POTW community working with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission.

BAY AREA POLLUTION PREVENTION GROUP

BAPPG provides member agencies with the opportunity to exchange information and ideas about effective pollution prevention. The group leverages limited resources to develop and carry out innovative regional pollution prevention projects that protect the Bay and help member agencies comply with permit requirements.

Contact:

Sarah Scheidt, Committee Chair, sscheidt@sunnyvale.ca.us

Meeting Information:

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of even numbered months at 10:00 a.m. Tentative 2012 dates are February 1, April 4, June 6, August 1, September 12, October 3, and December 5.

2011 Highlights:

- Spanish Radio advertisements promoted proper disposal of kitchen fats, oils, and grease with a total of 194 radio spots making 2.1 million gross impressions from Thanksgiving through New Years.
- In coordination with the BAAQMD's Spare the Air campaign, the committee sponsored Facebook advertisements to increase public awareness about wood smoke pollution (dioxins from burning trash) and its impact on water.
- The Spring Cleaning Campaign sought to increase traffic to the newBaywise.org website through media relations and advertising.
- A comment letter was submitted to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on the informal Draft Regulation for Safer Consumer Products (Green Chemistry), encouraging the development of sufficiently robust regulations to address products that threaten harm to the water environment and our public infrastructure.
- Outreach to plumbing unions, associations and educational institutions informed participants about the potential impact of copper pipe corrosion to drinking water quality and the Bay environment, and presented key steps that prevent/minimize pipe corrosion, from system design through pipe installation and building operation.
- Committee-sponsored presentations to over 500 participants from 11 separate colleges and associations educating the medical and dental community about the proper disposal of hazardous wastes, the concerns surrounding the use of antibacterial soaps, and the link between pharmaceutical disposal and endocrine disruption.

BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE

The Biosolids Committee provides proactive support and information sharing to member agencies on regional biosolids issues, projects, and proposed regulations and legislation. This includes support for the development and maintenance of cost-effective, sustainable biosolids management options for the more than 158,000 dry metric tons of biosolids produced in the Bay Area annually. The Committee helps evaluate emerging technologies and provides guidance on best practices in the industry.

Contact:

Matt Krupp, Committee Chair, matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov

Meeting Information:

Meetings are scheduled for February 9 and May 1. Contact chair for details and additional meeting dates.

COLLECTION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

The Collection Systems Committee serves as the focal point for sharing information among and addressing the regulatory issues affecting the more than 100 agencies responsible for maintaining tens of thousands of miles of sewage pipes in the Bay Area.

Contacts:

Andy Morrison, Committee Chair, andy_morrison1@unionsanitary.com
Andy Eggleston, Consultant, aeggleston@rmcwater.com

Meeting Information:

Meetings are scheduled monthly on Thursdays, from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m. 2012 meeting dates are January 26, March 1, April 12, May 10, June 7, June 12, September 13, October 4, November 1, and December 13.

2011 Highlights:

- The committee produced a template comment letter that facilitated a strong response to the State Water Board's proposed revisions to the Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements (SSS WDR) and provided feedback about Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Audit Requirements during a meeting with James Fischer of the State Water Board.
- Committee members worked with State Water Board staff to address critical issues surrounding sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) reporting via the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). Efforts included volunteering to help prepare a new, detailed reporting guide and providing feedback to the Office of Enforcement regarding proposed changes to the CIWQS collection system questionnaire.
- Technical topics selected for organized discussion during 2011 committee meetings included: Easement Maintenance Issues; Field Automation; Computerized Maintenance Management

Systems (CMMS); Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspections; and Force Mains/Pump Station Maintenance.

- The Pipe Installation Costs Database was developed as a tool to assist collection systems staff in estimating costs of installing new pipe.
- Committee members continued to keep each other up-to-date on enforcement actions, including their experiences with Water Board inspections, expectations, and requests for information.
- Palo Alto shared with the committee information about their lateral inspection program and comprehensive efforts to identify crossbores of gas service lines through sewer laterals.

LABORATORY COMMITTEE

The Laboratory Committee was the first committee formed by BACWA. It keeps members informed of scientific and technical developments affecting Bay water quality and environmental protection. Through monthly meetings, trainings, workshops, and e-mail correspondence, the committee provides an information exchange forum on analytical methods and protocols necessary for members' effective monitoring and permit compliance.

Contact:

Ken Lee, Committee Chair, klee@sfwater.org

Meeting Information:

The Committee meets monthly on Wednesdays, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This year's meeting dates are January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

2011 Highlights:

- Committee members assisted the Regional Water Board with formalizing the POTW PCBs Sampling, Analysis and Reporting Protocols Using EPA Method 1668C for Final Order No. R2-2011-0012.
- Monthly committee meetings and e-mail distribution lists provided a forum for member agencies to discuss potential impacts of the proposed state-wide Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) policy.
- Members worked together to facilitate their agencies' successful transition from the Regional Water Board's Electronic Reporting System (ERS) to the new CIWQS reporting tool.

INFOSHARE GROUPS

BACWA supports three InfoShare Groups: Operations, Bay Area Maintenance, and Engineering. These groups provide a setting for staff to discuss successes and challenges related to the operations, maintenance, and engineering issues faced by member agencies.

Contacts:

Mike Barnes, Consultant, MikeBarnes@kennedyjenks.com

Meeting Information:

The O&M Info Sharing Groups generally meet on the 4th Wednesday of the selected month. The Engineering Group generally meets during the last week of the month on a Wednesday or Thursday. Tentative dates for meetings in first half of 2012 are January 25 and April 25 for Operations, February 22 and May 23 for Maintenance, and February 23 and May 24 for Engineering. The actual dates are generally confirmed within 2 weeks of the tentative date.

2011 Highlights:

- Operation managers met quarterly to share information related to operations management issues which included staffing, organizational structure, succession planning, operator certification, energy management, security, union negotiations, and permitting.
- Staffing, performance indicators, maintenance planning, technical education, equipment maintenance problems and solutions, and Computerized Maintenance Management Software (CMMS) were among the many topics covered at the quarterly maintenance manager meetings.
- Engineering Info Share Group members met to discuss Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) implementation and management, alternative energy projects, new equipment and processes, and regulatory impacts on plant processes during their quarterly meetings.

PERMITS COMMITTEE

The Permits Committee assists Bay Area POTWs with National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System Permits and to stay informed about technical, scientific, and analytical issues impacting agencies' compliance.

Contacts:

Jim Ervin, Committee Chair, james.ervin@sanjoseca.gov
Monica Oakley, Consultant, moakley@rmcwater.com

Meeting Information:

The committee meets the second Tuesday of every month from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. This year's meeting dates are January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11. The March, June, September and December Meetings include Water Board Staff.

2011 Highlights:

- Comments were submitted on the proposed state-wide Whole Effluent Toxicity policy and members discussed the proposed policy with State Board members and their staff several times in 2011, successfully lobbying for scientific peer review of the proposal.
- Working with Regional Water Board staff, committee representatives developed a schedule for agencies to transition to CIWQS for submitting electronic Self-Monitoring Reports (eSMR).

- Committee members worked with Regional Water Board staff to revise, and streamline, pretreatment program requirements to develop the final version of NPDES Permit Attachment H which was adopted on March 2011.
- Permits Committee members collaborated on a comment letter and participated in efforts to encourage EPA to reconsider a proposed Federal Dental Amalgam Rule that could have required permitting dental offices.

RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE

The Recycled Water Committee promotes water recycling efforts to protect the environment and to develop reliable Bay Area water supplies. The committee is the BACWA lead in the Bay Area's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the regional liaison with California WaterReuse.

Contacts:

Cheryl Munoz, Committee Chair, cmunoz@sflower.org

Linda Hu, Committee Vice Chair, luh@ebmud.com

Meeting Information:

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

This year's meeting dates are January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 5, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, and December 5.

2011 Highlights:

- The committee worked to complete a survey which compiled recycled water use and uses of BACWA agencies.
- Members coordinated project submissions and served as the Bay Area lead for the Prop. 84 recycled water projects, which resulted in a \$10 million award for project implementation.
- Committee representatives participated on the Prop. 84 Planning Grant Committee to update the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (BAIRWMP).
- Working with the Bay Institute, members prepared recycled water information for inclusion in the 2011 "State of the Estuary" report.
- The committee began preparation of a Recycled Water Landscape Guide
- A BACWA liaison was appointed to the California Section of WaterReuse's Legislative/Regulatory Committee.
- Members coordinated with Regional Water Board staff to develop a Board presentation about "Water Recycling Status and Trends in the San Francisco Bay Area".
- Written comments in response to a Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Advisory Panel report were submitted and public testimony was provided to the State Water Board in regarding their recommendations for monitoring CECs in recycled water.