

Report to BACWA Board Prepared By: Arleen Navarret Committee Chair

Committee Request for Board Action: None

Business	Action Item	Due Date
<p>NPDES Permit Issues - Dioxin Rob Cole discussed the purpose and function of the BACWA dioxin work group (Limno-Tech Contract). Information presented by SFEI suggests that fish tissue contamination results from the bioaccumulation of two dioxin congeners, neither of which the PCB TMDL will have significant impact on. Although the Water Board staff are relying on the PCB TMDL reduction of dioxin-like PCBs to result in a delisting of San Francisco Bay for dioxin, the USEPA has already made statements to the contrary, and the current listing was imposed by USEPA. It was also noted that the dioxin compounds measured in POTW effluents are not those that bioaccumulate in fish tissue. It was suggested that the dioxin work group might pursue the feasibility of effluent limitations associated with the specific bioaccumulative dioxin compounds, with monitoring and reporting for the others; and that this strategy should be vetted with USEPA and the Water Board. As far as those agencies in attendance at the meeting that currently have a final dioxin effluent limit in their new permits, reporting is based on a summation of all dioxin compounds.</p>		
<p>NPDES Permit Issues – Mercury TMDL and Watershed Permit Committee members were apprised of Baykeeper comments on both the Mercury TMDL and the Watershed Permit that continue to focus on individual enforceable limits for municipal wastewater. Specifically, for the TMDL, Baykeeper strongly recommends that the State Water Board include a sentence that requires individual enforceable limits that equate to the individual mass load allocations for each municipal wastewater discharger; and for the Watershed Permit, Baykeeper is focusing on anti-backsliding and requesting that the concentration limits be no less than what is currently in each individual NPDES permit. The Watershed Permit proposes 2 tiers of enforceable effluent concentration limits: 0.087 µg/L for secondary treatment facilities and 0.023 µg/L for advanced secondary facilities. Ten agencies have existing effluent limits less than these: City of American Canyon (0.021), City of Calistoga (0.020), Delta Diablo Sanitation District (0.084), Mt. View Sanitary District (0.021), City of Petaluma (0.021), Rodeo Sanitary District (0.021), City of Saint Helena (0.08), San Jose/Santa Clara (0.012), City of Sunnyvale (0.012), and Town of Yountville (0.084). Interestingly, Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District has a historic Hg effluent limit of 0.2 µg/L, however, the new TO lists the limit at 0.087. The TMDL process allows changes to effluent limits; the Water Board, USEPA, and Baykeeper need to understand the core issue with the Hg TMDL is mass and concentration limits are typically not included.</p> <p>Note: EPA recently approved a Hg TMDL in Minnesota on March 27, 2007 that addresses regional implementation using aggregate limits. Consistent with the regional approach the TMDL did not include individual allocations.</p>		
<p>NPDES Permit Issues - EBMUD Wet Weather Permit Remand Short discussion on the expectation that the EBMUD Wet Weather NPDES Permit Remand proposed by the State Water Board will be adopted on May 1, 2007. Potential impacts to all permits may be an elimination of compliance schedules, inclusion of final effluent limits, an ammonia final effluent limit, and receiving water monitoring.</p> <p>Lila Tang already announced that adoption of the EBMUD remand will result in a delay in the Permit Reissuance schedule delaying all permits by 1 to 2 months, including those already with published TOs. She expects to minimally eliminate compliance schedules and issue final effluent limits in new permits and will likely jointly issue a Cease and Desist Order with those permits because there will be non-compliance.</p>		

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<p>Permit Appeals: Baykeeper and Environmental Law Foundation submitted appeals on the Pinole/Hercules Permit. It appears Baykeeper intends to appeal all permits on blending, compliance schedules and interim limits, and anti-backsliding issues. While Baykeeper's appeal is being held in abeyance, the Environmental Law Foundation appeal is not, which focuses on water quality degradation.</p>		
<p>New TOs: Sausalito/Marin-City and San Francisco International Airport – same issues continue: blending, final dioxin limits, bacteria criteria.</p>		
<p>Status of the Copper SSO: A workshop will be held on May 9, 2007; adoption by the Regional Water Board is expected at the June meeting.</p>		

**BACWA PERMITS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Meeting Date: April 24, 2007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Meeting Location: EBMUD Treatment Plant, Library

- I. Self Introductions
- II. Agenda Additions/Deletions
- III. NPDES Permit Issues
 - a. Dioxin – Please come to this meeting prepared to discuss how your agency calculates Dioxin TEQ to meet the 0.014 picograms/L limit
 - b. Mercury Watershed Permit/Mercury TMDL
 - c. EBMUD Wet Weather Facility NPDES Permit Remand
 - i. Implication to other Permits: Compliance schedules & Final Limits, Ammonia, Receiving Water Monitoring
 - d. Recent Permits Adopted
 - i. Pinole/Hercules
 - e. Current
 - i. San Francisco International Airport
 - ii. Sausalito Marine
 - f. New NPDES Reissuance Schedule
- IV. Other Business
 - a. Pulse of the Estuary article – POTW performance on metals pollutant reduction
 - b. Attendance/members rosters

2007 Meeting Calendar Attached