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| Permits Committee –  Report to BACWA Board | Permits Committee Meeting on: 2/10/15  Executive Board Meeting Date: 2/20/15  Committee Chair: Meg Herston |

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

**21 attendees representing 12 BACWA member agencies**

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| **Adoption of Permits/Permit Amendments:**  **March –** Fairfield Suisun Sewer District – BACWA submitted a [comment letter](http://bacwa.org/Portals/0/HomePageDocuments/BACWA%20Comment%20Letter%20on%20FSSD%20Permit%2026-Jan-2015.pdf) asking for the removal of SSO language from the Fact Sheet of their TO, since their sewer system is covered by the State SSS WDR. FSSD has not yet heard back from their permit writer about whether the language will be removed.  **April (and beyond) –** Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District – Las Gallinas was given numeric chronic toxicity limits, in addition to triggers in their tentative order. In calculating their limits, the Region water board granted them the same dilution they get for cyanide (3.25:1) resulting in limits of 2.7 TUc avg monthly and 5.3 TUc max day. Reasonable potential was determined qualitatively based on 30 data points. The one high toxicity value (8 TUc) was used to confirm reasonable potential, although the agency says that it was likely a spurious hit. A key objection to the development of limits in the Las Gallinas permit is that it represents developing policy by permit. Other (minor) issues in the Las Gallinas permit were language addressing historic blending and the rescinding of a CDO for copper compliance. Further discussion about toxicity is below.  San Francisco Oceanside Plant and EBMUD’s upcoming permits were on the agenda but were not discussed at the meeting. Please see the January Board report for more information. |
| **Toxicity**  Jim Ervin gave the [presentation](http://bacwa.org/Portals/0/ExecutiveBoard/Library/Policy%20for%20Toxicity%20Assessment%20and%20Control%202015b.pdf) on toxicity that he had developed for the BACWA annual meeting. Two key points of the presentation are that observed toxicity is difficult to replicate and attribute to a specific toxicant. Also, his key closing message is that although San Jose experiences ongoing low level toxicity, the health of the ecosystem downstream of their effluent is evidence that their effluent isn’t toxic in the receiving water.  Several BACWA members will be meeting with Dave Smith at the EPA to discuss the inclusion of numeric limits in permits moving forward. The committee discussed approaches to this meeting. Lorien Fono will gather chronic toxicity data from shallow water dischargers and send an analysis of the data to the team attending the meeting. If chronic toxicity limits are included in permits moving forward, the group discussed that it may be possible to do a similar reasonable potential analysis for acute toxicity and have acute toxicity limits removed from some permits. |
| **Nutrients**  The group did not discuss nutrients at the meeting, but Meg Herston pointed out that updates were provided as links in the agenda as follows:   * + Regional Water Board [conditional acceptance](https://bacwa.box.com/s/72s9hoozmtwz882q05gtvn7kypfuihuu) of Scoping and Evaluation Plan, and BACWA [response](https://bacwa.box.com/s/2cz1at3lqpfpbzv3m38ulftdyi6v08s2)   + [Survey](https://bacwa.box.com/s/rs6bkopyd0zd88unkfgh)   + Report-out from February 9 Nutrient Management Strategy [Steering Committee](http://sfbaynutrients.sfei.org/books/nms-steering-committee-meeting-materials)   + [Interim Science Plan Submitted](https://bacwa.box.com/s/gh63aba7lkqo5mahqh1vk8i64temvfc5) for permit compliance |
| **Chlorine limitations**  Mike Connor is seeking feedback from other deep water dischargers on a strategy to change how chlorine residual is permitted. Agencies are overdosing their effluent with bisulfite to avoid chlorine residual violations, thereby impacting DO in the Bay. It would make more sense to take actual chlorine toxicity and its dissipation rate into consideration when setting limits. |
| **Informational Items/Announcements**   * + Federal Dental Amalgam Rule CASA comment letter, due February 20. Tim Potter is BACWA liaison.   + Risk Reduction update – Regional Water Board has asked BACWA to work directly with community-based organizations and fund risk reduction work.   + AIR committee to be integrated into BACWA as regular committee, meetings will be open to all BACWA members   + CASA is soliciting specific requests for monitoring and reporting reductions as part of the resource alignment/cost of compliance effort. Amanda Roa will send out additional information. |
| **Next BACWA Permits Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10, 2014, at EBMUD Plant Library, Regional Water Board Staff to attend |