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| Permits Committee –  Report to BACWA Board | Permits Committee Meeting on: 6/9/15  Executive Board Meeting Date: 6/19/15  Committee Chair: Meg Herston |

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

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| **Adoption of Permits/Permit Amendments:**  **June –** *Yountville* – The TO does not contain dates for the dry season but only sets out discharge conditions based on the receiving water flow and recycled water storage capacity. Their flow is 0.5 mgd. Yountville is being given reduced BOD and TSS limits, although they have not been reclassified as a advanced secondary treatment facility. Their point of compliance will be after secondary treatment, rather than after the storage ponds as originally proposed by the Regional Water Board.  **July** - *Novato –* BACWA provided a [comment letter](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BACWA-Comment-Letter-%E2%80%93-Tentative-Order-for-Novato-Sanitary-District-Wastewater-Treatment-Plant-NPDES-No.pdf) proposing an alternative justification for WQBELs for ammonia, rather than the original rationale which was that human waste contains ammonia and its precursors. |
| **Toxicity**   * + *Statewide efforts –* State Water Board member Tam Doduc attended the Las Gallinas permit adoption hearing and has been reportedly unhappy with how the Regions are being forced to forge ahead with their own toxicity implementation policies by the EPA objecting to toxicity provisions in their draft permits. She is interested in restarting the State Toxicity Plan process. Bobbi Larson of CASA is arranging meetings between State Water Board members and POTW representatives. CASA hosted a conference call to go over POTW talking points. The three key points were: 1) There should not be a maximum daily effluent limit, i.e., a single sample exceedance; 2) There should be protection from repeat violations while agencies are making a good faith effort to do a TRE/TIE; 3) There needs to be guidance about how the 5-concentration test should be used to invalidate a spurious test result. There was discussion in committee that it should be left up to best professional judgement of the laboratory to invalidate test results.   + *Chronic toxicity numeric limits in Region 2 –* The Las Gallinas permit was adopted on May 13 with chronic toxicity limits. There was a discussion about thresholds for performing TREs. San Jose has put together a TRE plan stating that they will not follow up with a trigger exceedance unless it is above 2-3 TUc, since it is impossible to identify the cause of toxicity at such low levels.   + *Acute toxicity costs and feasibility of reducing testing frequency –* The Regional Water Board may be open to reduced acute toxicity monitoring when there is chronic toxicity monitoring. They wanted to know the cost reduction associated with acute toxicity testing, and whether there would be any problems related to startup after a long hiatus between tests.   + All dischargers should send their data to Lorien ([lfono@bacwa.org](mailto:lfono@bacwa.org)), and perform the TST analysis on their raw data to see whether they will have an issue once the State Water Board adopts its new Toxicity Plan. |
| **Triennial Review**  The Regional Water Board invited BACWA to submit a “package” of requests. Ideas to include were:   * revising the toxicity implementation plan * changing how chlorine residual is regulated * reevaluate dissolved oxygen objectives * develop a wastewater wetlands policy * revisit how mixing zones are determined * address recycled water   The ranking of comments was discussed as it gives more weight to input from EPA and the State Water Board. Richard Looker will be invited to the next Permits committee meeting so that the committee can give him input before he begins the triennial review process. |
| **Reduction in CTR Constituents Monitoring**  At the last joint meeting with Regional Water Board staff, there was a discussion about the possibility of reduced monitoring of CTR constituents in exchange for increased RMP funding. There was a discussion about the difficulty of reduced monitoring that is allowed under the pretreatment requirements for agencies that observe eight years of non-detect in the effluent and near non-detect in the influent and biosolids. Tom Hall will share the documentation he developed for getting reduced monitoring for Benicia. Lorien Fono will talk with the Laboratory Committee to get their ideas for reducing monitoring costs. The State Water Board is also looking at reducing monitoring requirements as part of the Resource Alignment initiative. |
| **Nutrients**   * Site visits related to the optimization/upgrade studies are going well and will continue for the rest of the summer. * BACWA has contracted with HDR to do an analysis of what would be required to implement a “no net loading increase”, which is a concept that the Regional Water Board has suggested for the next watershed permit. * There was a special Board meeting on May 18 to discuss ideas for negotiating the next watershed permit. Agencies were in favor of considering what BACWA can offer to the Regional Water Board in lieu of a “no net loading increase” requirement. |
| **Report-out from 5/15 Executive Board Meeting**   * Laura Pagano (SFPUC) will be assuming the Executive Board Chair role, and Jim Ervin will be vice-Chair. * As an outcome of the joint meeting between the AIR committee and BAAQMD staff, BACWA will be setting up a workshop with BAAQMD and PG&E to discuss pipeline injection of biogas. * The IRWM Coordinating Committee has finalized its list of projects to be included in the Regional application to DWR for the remaining Proposition 84 funds, and no wastewater/nutrient or recycled water projects were included. The main driver for project selection was “truing up” of the different functional areas, and recycled water projects had received a lot of funding during the drought round in 2014. |
| **Announcements**   * In July, Meg Herston (FSSD) will be stepping down as Permits Committee chair, and Amanda Roa (Delta Diablo) will assume the Chairship. Eric Dunleavy (San Jose) will be vice-chair. * The State of the Estuary meeting will be held in Oakland, September 17/18. * [WEF Nutrient Workshop](http://www.wef.org/Nutrient/) will be held July 26-28 * EBMUD has been experiencing some new developments with air permitting. They haven’t been given a digester gas limit, instead they have been given a facility-wise combustion limit, which is a backdoor regulation limiting flaring. Additionally, the BAAQMD has reduced the sulfur limits in digester gas. |
| **Next BACWA Permits Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at EBMUD Plant Library. Water Board Staff to attend. |