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| Permits Committee –  Report to BACWA Board | Permits Committee Meeting on: 4/12/16  Executive Board Meeting Date: 4/15/16  Committee Chair: Amanda Roa |

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

**15 attendees, representing 11 member agencies**

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| **Adoption of Permits/Permit Amendments:**  **April -** *Calistoga –*Calistoga has an outfall that is used to discharge secondary effluent when their tertiary capacity is exceeded. The new order gives them higher limits for secondary discharge than tertiary for the first time. They requested a change from monthly to quarterly acute toxicity monitoring, and were turned down because they had one acute toxicity hit in the last five years.  *Petaluma –* Petaluma successfully argued against decreased BOD and TSS limits. They are happy with their TO and only have a few minor comments.  *Livermore/Amador Valley Wet Weather –* This order only covers an infrequently-used emergency wet weather discharge.  **May -** *Mt. View –* The TO contains requirements for extra nutrients monitoring in their marshlands due to concerns about algae and odors. It also requires enhanced reporting via a Marsh Management Plan.  **July –** *Napa* – They recently received their Administrative Draft. |
| **Microplastics and CECs**   * *Update from microplastics workgroup –* The NOAA method does not fully digest natural fibers such as toilet paper. They are looking to develop a more robust protocol. The RMP is hosting a microplastics workshop on 6/29. * *Report-out from* [*April 6 BAPPG Meeting*](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/BAPPG_Slides_04-06-16-Slides-to-Share-1.pdf) *-* Rebecca Sutton of SFEI gave a presentation for the RMP’s CEC program. Dr. Sutton will be coordinating pharmaceutical monitoring this summer, so agencies that wish to monitor their effluent for a range of 100-200 constituents can do so through SFEI. The cost will be $1,500-$2000 per sample. Consultants Kelly Moran and Stephanie Hughes gave a presentation on fipronil and imidacloprid. These compounds are both found in the environment at concentrations that may be of concern, and use is increasing. Previously only stormwater runoff has been considered as a route to the environment, but studies are showing that municipal sewage is also a source, possibly since these products are being washed off of pet owners’ hands and clothing and are rinsed down the drain. Stephanie Hughes distributed the [Pesticides Call to Action](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/BACWA-Pesticide-Regulatory-Update-2016-1.pdf) flyer that describes opportunities for regulatory engagement. * State CECs Pilot Monitoring Plan – There has been no update on the Plan since BACWA submitted its [comment letter](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/BACWA_BASMAA-comments-CECs-Monitoring-Plan-030816-2.pdf) urging the State to work through the RMP. State Water Board staff had been under the impression that there was a separate pot of money to fund the monitoring they would like to conduct. * *RMP CECs Meeting –* BACWA members are invited to participate in the RMP CECs meeting on April 15 to help guide the direction of future research. It was noted that this is the same day as the April Executive Board meeting. |
| **Nutrients**   * + *Optimization/Upgrade Studies –* The consultant team is working to release the first wave of facility reports by the end of April. BACWA intends to host a member workshop later this spring to discuss the format and assumptions used to develop the facility reports.   + *Annual Reporting Data Template –* HDR distributed an Excel reporting template to all of the Points of Contact for the nutrient group annual report. The template was developed to ease data collection as many problems were encountered when trying to extract data from CIWQS last year.   + *Nutrient Strategy Team –* The Nutrient Strategy Team, made up of representatives from large and small POTWs from each subembayment, met in March to discuss how to proceed in planning to negotiate the next watershed permit. The ED is developing a member survey to get feedback about the member interest in reissuing the permit earlier with higher contributions to the scientific program, in exchange for putting off nutrient load caps for five years from the start of the higher funding level.   + *Technical Review of Scientific Documents -* BACWA is looking to hire a consultant to provide technical review of the documents produced as part of the Nutrient Management Strategy, as well as the Assessment Framework.   + *Recycled Water Request for Information –* The consulting team will be requesting information from agencies about their 2015 recycled water use, as well as plans to increase recycled water use in the future. The information will be used to estimate nutrient loads removed through consumptive use. Future recycled water plans will be categorized as either “budgeted”, “master planned”, or “conceptual”. The Recycled Water Committee endeavored to format the data request so that it can be used to satisfy the nutrient effort, the DWR and SWRCB requests for information, as well as Urban Water Management Plans. As it turns out the timing of the other data request are such that everything was unable to be coordinated seamlessly and the nutrient data request will go out first (along with facility reports from the optimization and upgrade study), with other requests to follow from SWRCB and DWR. |
| **Drought/Recycling**   * *Proposition 1 Proposal Concepts –* The two proposal concepts are to study 1) use of RO concentrate to nourish tidal wetlands; or 2) impacts of freshwater withdrawals from the South Bay and Lower South Bay. The Board will discuss these concepts at the next meeting when Santa Clara Valley Water District representatives will be in attendance. SFEI is interested in participating in a proposal for either concept. After the Executive Board meeting, BACWA will work with Regional Water Board staff to select a concept to pursue for grant funding ($100-$200K). * *State General Order for Recycled Water –*In the April EO Report to the Board for Region 2 there was language implying that all recycled water permittees in the State would be rolled into the State General Order. This would be a large administrative burden on the Regions, and most permittees in Region 2 would prefer to continue under 96-011. BACWA will work to get more information about this possibility. * *Surface Water Augmentation Regulations* – BACWA submitted a [comment letter](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SWA-Alt-Comment-Letter-4-7-16.pdf) to the State Water Board that we would like to see an alternatives clause to allow agencies whose reservoirs don’t have a six-month residence time to pursue surface water augmentation. The Water Board responded that this isn’t an open comment period, but it was noted at the meeting that now is the best time to have an influence, before the draft regulations are released. * *CCMP Update –* The Recycled Water Committee has worked with SFEP to rewrite the recycled water section in the CCMP. Now, instead of focusing on potable reuse, the focus is on using “the right water in the right place, at the right time”. The tasks have to do with collaborating to look for ways to overcome barriers to recycled water, and to share outreach materials. |
| **Announcements**   * + *EMWD Lawsuit –* EMWD is first agency to [successfully defend itself](http://bacwa.org/document/collection-emwd-lawsuit-press-release-03-24-16/) in a CWA lawsuit without settling.   + *SB163 (Hertzberg)* – Bill that is being developed will prohibit all wastewater discharges that ultimately reach the ocean, including discharges to SF Bay. The Senator is not interested in working on amendments with CASA, which has now taken an “oppose” position on the Bill.   + *Alternate Monitoring Program* – The [order](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2016/R2-2016-0008.pdf) was adopted in March. Agencies that will opt in may start reducing their monitoring beginning in April. The surcharge is paid to the RMP in September. |
| **Report out from the 3/19 Executive Board meeting**   * Most items covered previously in the agenda. * Heidi Sandborn of the CPSC gave a presentation at the March Executive Board meeting. BAPPG may provide letters of support for SB1129, which protects pharmacies that do pharmaceutical take-backs, AB2039, which requires producer responsibility for sharps, and against AB45, which includes pharmaceuticals in Household Hazardous Waste programs. |
| **Next BACWA Permits Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, May 10, 1-3pm, at EBMUD Plant Library. The committee chair will solicit more responses to the [poll](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2GBM5FJ) on alternative meeting venues and conference call-only meetings to plan the future of permits committee meetings. |