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| Permits Committee –  Report to BACWA Board | Permits Committee Meetings on: 5/9/17  Executive Board Meeting Date: 5/19/17  Committee Chair: Eric Dunlavey |

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

**Regional Water Board Staff in attendance**

**18 Participants representing 9 member agencies**

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| **Upcoming Permits**  ***May –*** EBDA – EBDA’s tentative order allows them to discontinue acute toxicity testing since their chronic test has a survival endpoint. Both [EBDA](https://bacwa.org/document/ebda-comment-letter-3-03-17/) and [BACWA](https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/BACWA-comments-EBDA-TO-04-03-17.pdf) submitted letters requesting a higher chlorine residual limit at the point of compliance than the 0.0 mg/L limit in the Basin Plan. EBDA also developed a [memo](http://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/EBDA-Chlorine-Residual-Memo-09-12-16-2.pdf) outlining regulatory options for a higher allowable residual. Rather than alternative implementation, the Water Board favors moving ahead with a Basin Plan amendment on Residual Chlorine (see below). Alternatively, EBDA may switch to peracetic acid if they can’t get a regulatory fix for chlorine. There was also a discussion of the role of pretreatment monitoring in the Alternative Monitoring Plan.  DSRSD and Livermore – no issues.  ***July*** – North San Mateo County Sanitary District |
| **Residual Chlorine**  Most of BACWA’s member agencies disinfect their effluent using chlorine. Because chlorine is monitored continuously and has an instantaneous limit, chlorine violations are the most common water quality violation (41 since agencies began reporting violations to CIWQS), and 16 our member agencies with chlorine limits have reported chlorine residual violations to CIWQS. Because of the likelihood of exceeding the 0.0 mg/L instantaneous chlorine residual limit at some point, most agencies use a very high dose of sodium bisulfite to quench the chlorine. To avoid violations, operators routinely overdose the effluent with sodium bisulfite. For fiscal year 2018, Bay Area Agencies are purchasing 3.1 million gallons of sodium bisulfite at a cost of $3.3 million. About a quarter of this volume is used to overdose SBS such that there will be a chemically supported justification that a chlorine residual could not exist just in case an agency’s monitor happens to show an unanticipated chlorine spikes of short duration. However, even if unquenched, these spikes will be quickly attenuated and diluted in the outfall and receiving water, so this excess sodium bisulfite added to the effluent contributes no water quality benefit. The Regional Water Board is open to a Basin Plan Amendment to change the instantaneous chlorine residual limit of 0.0 mg/L. BACWA will work with Regional Water Board staff to further explore this possibility. |
| **ELAP Update**  The State Water Board has adopted the full 2016 TNI regulations with modifications to reduce the PT testing to once/year instead of twice, and the modification to allow the staffing language currently in article 9 ( using CWEA and AWWA certifications in place of degrees).  All of the other of stakeholders’ suggested and approved modifications of the standard have now been reduced to what will amount to “clarifying language” somewhere in the regulation or guidance.  ELAP will provide training workshops especially for the very small labs to go through and create a TNI compliant Lab Manual with all the templates and easy wording when aspects of the standard do not apply. Third party auditors will be used to catch ELAP up on their backlog and to help training ELAP staff that are not knowledgeable to audit on their own at this time. There will likely be a 6 year roll-out before labs are going to be required to be TNI compliant.  Each lab will have 2 audits during the training phases before they would need to comply.  Board members had requested that a State Lab pilot the program and try to implement it faster than six years, and the new Deputy Director of Drinking water stated that they asked State labs to do this and were told “No” because it is too much work and too expensive.  Future BACWA Lab committee meetings will discuss specific sections of the standard and share ideas/forms of the sections that the State cannot easily do for labs – training records, non-compliance records, ideas on document control that will work, etc, . BACWA will consider ways in which it can leverage economies of scale to centralize some of the workload associated with the new standard. |
| **Nutrient Updates**   * 1. *DO Workshop –* Participants were pleased with the April 27-28 DO workshop, which was one of the first expert meetings that has been open to stakeholders. The scientist are investigating questions of when is DO too low for organisms, and the usefulness of functional groups vs. sentinel species for assessing the response of the community to low DO. They are also looking at physiological responses to low DO. They are tying their investigations to modeling work that looks at the spatial and temporal variability in low DO conditions.   2. *Nutrient Technical Workgroup (NTW*) – [Meeting](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1g4fIYKHETSMDY5NzhXV0c2ZW8) was held on May 4 at SFEI. These meetings take place about once per year and are an opportunity to give technical feedback to the researchers. The meeting covered prioritization of studies. The four top priority studies proposed are: 1) toxins in mussels; 2) image interpretation from the cytobot; 3) calibration of in situ sensors; and 4) synthesis of data so far. Several BACWA members are interested in moving biogeochemical field studies to a higher priority. Agencies have the option of providing funding that is directly earmarked for specific projects to ensure they proceed.   3. *June 7 Optimization/Upgrade Workshop –* All agencies will have received their facility reports in advance of the workshop. [Registration](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7fbeCue81QVhcOe-i2exPoaDOdC1Q8K4Hd8hJWvVDTMrcIg/viewform?c=0&w=1) is open to all members, but since there are space constraints in the room, if too many invitees RSVP, agencies with more than one attendee may be asked to limit their attendance.   4. *Recycled Water Survey –* All surveys have now been submitted. BACWA is working to QA the survey data with DWR staff.   5. Nereda – One conclusion of the optimization and upgrade studies is that many agencies’ options are driven by space limitations. Nereda is a granular activated sludge technology that works in a small footprint. AECOM is planning a demonstration facility at FSSD, and would welcome participation from other agencies as well. |
| **Toxicity**   1. *Pacifica Permit -*  Pacifica’s permit with toxicity limits was adopted as proposed. The Regional Water Board did express concerns about the low limits, but staff assured them they would work with Pacifica to ensure they don’t get caught in an endless TRE cycle. They also specified that they can change species mid-permit cycle. 2. The State Water Board has proposed an updated Toxicity Plan, now called the [Toxicity Provisions for the SIP](https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Toxicity-Provisions-Staff-Draft.pdf). They conducted a stakeholder meeting for POTWs on April 11 to answer questions, and provided an [Outreach Document](https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Outreach-Document.pdf) summarizing the Provisions. CASA is providing redlines to the State Water Board focusing on the following:  * How IWC is established * How RP is determined * Timing of tests within a calendar month * What happens when agencies send a split sample to different labs with different results * Removing Water Board discretion on monitoring during TREs * Sensitive Species screening   The SF Regional Water Board will also discuss the preliminary draft with the State Water Board about some of the more problematic provisions such as the sensitivie species screening requirements. BACWA is considering collecting data to test out who would not have reasonable potential if the threshold was set at 10% effect level, and what might be a more appropriate threshold.   1. *Toxicity Workshop -*  BACWA is planning to hold a toxicity workshop during the summer of 2017. A draft agenda was circulated. Members would like staff from contract labs invited to speak. |
| **Announcements**   * 1. State Water Board adopts [Beneficial Uses and Mercury Objectives](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/mercury/docs/staff_report/hg_staff_report.pdf).   2. Baywide toxicity 303(d) listing moved to Category 3   3. BAAQMD adoption of Rule 11-18 moved to July 2017 |
| **Next BACWA Permits Committee Meeting:** Tuesday June 13, EBMUD. |