



# BAPPG Meeting Notes

## Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 10am

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### 1. Introductions and Announcements

### 2. Regional Board Announcements—Debbie Phan

- a. The 2019 P2 Award nomination is now open.

### 3. Updates

- a. **Steering Committee** – The Steering Committee conference calls will be switched to the Tuesday of odd months from 10-11 am. For the RFQ for outreach support, four firms sent in their qualifications. The selection committee was unable to choose between the top two firms, so has issued an RFP to just the two of them, with a deadline of June 14. Doug Datawalker is looking for agencies to send him GIS shape files of their sewersheds so that the committee can put together a map of different agencies' jurisdictions in the Region.
- b. **BACWA** – The second [nutrient watershed permit](#) was adopted May 8.
- c. **CWEA** – Planning is beginning for next year's P3S conference. A call for presentation will be out in August. There will be two toolbelt trainings in Northern California in August and December.
- d. **OWOW** - New factsheets have been produced on bedbugs, moles, voles and gophers, and pesticides in watersheds. The pesticides fact sheet is not being printed and is only available on the website. The CASQA Conference will be held October 7 to 9 in Monterey.
- e. **Budget** – The committee budget for FY19 is approximately 86% spent.
- f. **Pesticides** – The flea and tick campaign generated an uptick in page views for Baywise.org.

### 4. Microplastics Presentations

Carolynn Box of 5Gyres gave a [presentation](#) on the results of microplastics surveys in the Bay, where samples were collected from the surface via Manta trawl. Some key points:

- More than 21,000 microparticles were collected
- 10% of particles were analyzed w/ spectroscopy
- More than 68% of microfibers positively identified as plastic through spectroscopy
- Approximately 50% of stormwater particles were rubber
- Atmospheric deposition poorly understood as a source
- Ecological impacts need more study

5Gyres, with SFEI, has also developed draft policy recommendations, as follows:

Recommendation #1: Fiber sheddability standardization

Recommendation #2: Prioritize various intervention points for microfibers around filtration  
Recommendation #3: Further identify and quantify microplastics sources and pathways within stormwater systems  
Recommendation #4: Support comprehensive packaging bill in Bay Area and statewide  
Recommendation #5: Explore green stormwater infrastructure management options to reduce microplastics from entering San Francisco Bay  
Recommendation #6: Better collaboration between trash (>5mm) and microplastics (<5mm) efforts  
Recommendation #7: Support innovation to address microplastic pollution in San Francisco Bay  
Recommendation #8: Address additional research needs  
Recommendation #9: Education to consumers on ways to reduce microfibers from entering San Francisco Bay  
Recommendation #10: Support San Francisco Bay Microplastics Management Strategy to reduce microplastics

Alicia Gilbreath, SFEI, [presented](#) the results of studies focusing on sources of microplastics to the Bay. At the May 22 RMP Microplastics Workgroup meeting, microplastics were promoted to “moderate concern” tier from the “possible concern” tier, following European Union directive that microplastic is a non-threshold substance for which no safe level exists. “There is currently insufficient information to derive a robust predicted no effect concentrations (PNECs) for microplastics, that could be used to justify a conclusion that risks are adequately controlled.”

Results of 24-hour composite sampling at 8 POTWs in 2018 showed that advanced secondary plants had lower microparticle counts than plants without filtration. However, the total counts are still millions per day. The majority of microparticles discharged by POTWs are fibers, followed by fragments, then foam. Most fibers could not be identified as natural or synthetic because the dyes mask the signal of the material. Of the fragments, 55% were identified as plastic. In aggregate, 47 billion microparticles are discharged annually to the SF Bay by POTWs, of which 21 billion are estimated to be plastic.

For stormwater sampling, 10.9 trillion microparticles to SF Bay annually; 63-90% of that is plastic. (Half of microparticles are rubber fragments). This means that stormwater contributes more than 200 times the load of POTWs. Industrial areas appear to be disproportionately contributing to microparticle loading.

5. **Next meeting** – August 7, 2019, **SFPUC**, 10am – 12pm. This will be the annual pollutant prioritization meeting.