

# Pollution Prevention in the time of COVID-19

Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Co-Chairs: Autumn Cleave and Robert Wilson

Vice-Chair: Joe Neugebauer



# Agenda

1. Steering Committee agency spotlights (ppt)
2. Open discussion
  - ▶ We'd like to hear from you!
3. Identify lessons learned



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- ▶ Moved events online
- ▶ Focused on social media
- ▶ Digital articles
- ▶ Pretreatment Inspections
  - ▶ All field activities on hold until May
  - ▶ New IUs inspected
    - ▶ Permit renewals not getting inspections
  - ▶ Priority pollutant influent and effluent sampling
    - ▶ On hold through May



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## Administrative:

- ▶ Biweekly COVID-19 calls
- ▶ BlueJeans for teleconferencing
- ▶ Resource on antibacterials and disinfectants
  - ▶ <https://www.sfapproved.org/safer-covid-19-cleaning-product-disinfectants>



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# West County Wastewater Covid-19 Update

- All employees who can work from home are doing so for the foreseeable future.
- Minimum staffing at the District Office and at the Plant
- District Board has approved Administrative leave for employees who are asked to stay home and do not have the ability to work from home.
- Masks are to be worn inside all District buildings at all times and when working within six feet from another employee.
- All meetings with more than three people need to be conducted virtually.
- All capital projects that were put on hold have slowly started to resume over the past two weeks.
- No non-WCW employees allowed inside District buildings

# West County Wastewater Environmental Programs Division Update

- No inspections, sample events, tours or outreach events since March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff has been working on SOPs, code revisions, data management remotely.
- Staying up to date on safety trainings and webinars. CWEA and NACWA offering remote trainings.
- Adding more P2 content to the WCW website and facebook page. We're now on Nextdoor!
- Some pretreatment activities to resume in June
- Thinking about remote classroom presentations for the 20/21 school year



# Regional Water Quality Control Plant

- Public Outreach
  - Virtual events
  - In-classroom school program converted to free virtual lesson plans ([cleanbay.org](http://cleanbay.org))
  - Digital ads and utility bill inserts - don't rush to flush campaign
- Pretreatment
  - Inspections on hold, will resume in June
  - Permit issuance/renewals continued as needed
  - Billing Sampling of trunklines continued as normal
  - Monitoring operational status of regulated companies and significant industrial users (essential businesses)





## Admin

- ▶ No non-SVCW employees or contractors allowed inside facility
- ▶ Admin pay provided for employees who stayed home during SIP without the ability to work from home (returned June 1)
- ▶ All employees provided VPN to sign onto Teams
- ▶ Ops, Maintenance and Lab moved to skeleton crew in order to limit contact through May 31
- ▶ All employees who can work from home are doing so for the foreseeable future
- ▶ Use of Microsoft Teams and Sharepoint for meetings, file sharing, and communication
- ▶ All capital projects were assessed and some continued while others were put on hold
- ▶ Pandemic Emergency Response Plan was developed with details of who has responsibility for what and who will be onsite at what times
- ▶ Consolidated Pandemic Schedule spreadsheet on Teams of who is onsite week by week





## Physical Space/Wellness:

- ▶ Symptom and temperature check protocols put into place for worker return
- ▶ Vehicles assigned to specific employees. If shared users must use a disinfection protocol before and after use
- ▶ Masks are required when working within six feet from other employees
- ▶ Operations control room is being moved to a larger space to enable social distancing
- ▶ Lunch room microwaves moved to enable social distancing
- ▶ Directional arrows put on floors for movement flow to avoid contact with others

## Environmental Compliance

- ▶ Field sampling continued and completed
- ▶ Stormwater Inspections put on hold until late May, resumed no contact inspections week of May 18
- ▶ Resuming social distance inspections week of June 8

**Thank you!**

