



BAPPG Meeting Notes

Wednesday October 7, 2020, 10 am

1. Introductions

There were 30 attendees representing 22 Northern California wastewater agencies.

2. Regional Board Announcements—Debbie Phan

- a. **2020 P2 Award:** The award will be given to the City of Berkeley at the October meeting of the Regional Water Board. The staff report regarding the award is [here](#). Debbie thanked the committed for sponsoring the award.

3. Updates

a. Steering Committee

- SGA contract is now under contract for the fall outreach campaign on non-flushable wipes. BAPPG's contact person at SGA has changed.
- Budget is on-track with 17% spent after the first quarter.

b. BACWA Announcements

- It was recently announced that the State Water Board is establishing a "Pretreatment and CECs" unit at the state level.
- The Ocean Protection Council, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, are reconvening the [Science Advisory Panel on Contaminants of Emerging Concern \(CECs\) in Aquatic Ecosystems \(Panel\)](#). The Panel will be hosting its initial series of public meetings via Zoom. The meetings are scheduled Monday through Thursday, October 12 – 15 from 8am to 10am. The agenda and registration link are [here](#).

c. OWOW

- The next meeting of OWOW will occur in late October. Jennifer Kaiser will report back in December.

d. CWEA

- CWEA Annual Conference – virtual conference October 19-22, 2020. There are several PFAS sessions that may be of interest to the group on Wednesday 10/21, including a session with Arlene Blum.
- The next CWEA P3S Toolbelt training regarding illicit discharges and industrial permitting is on Tuesday, October 13th. A registration link was sent to the BAPPG email list.
- CWEA P3S Conference will be virtual in February 2021. The organizing committee is still contemplating exact dates (3 Tuesdays or 3 days in a row).

e. Pesticides Committee Update

- The pesticide committee continues to track EPA pesticide registration, after submitting several comment letters this summer.
- Stephanie Hughes will be presenting to Foothill College's Vet Tech program on October 8th.

4. San Francisco Safer Cleaning Campaign

- Ciara Pringle from the San Francisco Department of the Environment presented on the City's Safer Cleaning Campaign, which is currently under development. The campaign will occur during the first quarter of 2021, and they are currently gathering information about available products. The City invites BAPPG participation and will share graphics for BAPPG use. The group discussed whether the campaign will focus on basic cleaning products or specifically on potentially toxic cleaners, like cleaners with quarternary ammonia or colloidal silver. The City has already released information related to COVID disinfection at <https://sfenvironment.org/download/safer-cleaning-and-disinfection-for-covid19>

5. Distance Learning – Presentation from CCCSD

- Ben Lavender of CCCSD walked meeting participants through a demonstration of a distance learning activity involving toilet paper and non-flushable materials. The activity can be performed in a video conference using readily available materials.
- The activity directs students to add one square of toilet paper to a clear container, add a top, then “flush it” and record their observations using prompts like

“I notice...”

“I wonder...”

“It reminds me of...”

The activity is repeated with a square of paper towel, wipe, or other non-flushable materials. At the end, the students compare the two containers (see photo at right).



- Jan Robertson, K-12 Science Coach from the Mt Diablo Unified School District, joined in to provide input on how to tie wastewater outreach into state science standards. The [Next Generation Science](#) standards and [California Environmental Principles and Concepts](#) are examples of standards to use for reference. For example, 2nd grade and 5th grade standards involve properties of matter, so discussing how toilet paper changes form in the water ties into the standards.
- The group discussed strategies for connecting with classroom teachers. Some members reported having success reaching out to teachers directly – for example, through employees with school-aged kids – while others reported success working with District or County science curriculum representatives.
- The group discussed challenges with preparing outreach videos. Some members have prepared outreach videos in-house (such as a tour of the WWTP or lab, or classroom activities related to wastewater), while others reported better results using a professional videography team. SFPUC has a few videos available at <https://www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=9>, and SVCW is working on a few more.

6. Next meeting – December 2, 2020, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom.