



Special Executive Board Meeting Minutes Joint Meeting with Regional Water Board Staff

April 2, 2021

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Board Representatives: Lori Schectel (Central Contra Costa Sanitary District); Amit Mutsuddy (San Jose); Eileen White (East Bay Municipal Utility District); Jacqueline Zipkin (East Bay Dischargers Authority); Amy Chastain (SFPUC).

Other Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Company</u>
Lorien Fono	BACWA
Mary Cousins	BACWA
Michael Montgomery	Regional Water Board
Tom Mumley	Regional Water Board
Bill Johnson	Regional Water Board
Robert Schlipf	Regional Water Board
James Parrish	Regional Water Board
Richard Looker	Regional Water Board
Don Gray	East Bay Municipal Utility District
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose
Tom Hall	EOA

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1 – Agency Updates

Representatives from the Regional Water Board (RB2) and BACWA agencies briefly shared how their agencies are approaching vaccination and return-to-work decisions now that many employees have been able to be vaccinated for COVID. Some employees are returning to work now, while in other cases work-from-home has been extended through September. One RB2 staff member temporarily re-assigned to contract tracing will be returning soon, and RB2 is planning to resume in-person inspections soon.

RB2 staff shared that there may need to be a need to revisit selenium water quality objectives soon, based on action at the federal level under the new administration.

Central San shared recent experience regarding BAAQMD’s retroactive decision to require Tier 4 emissions controls for emergency generators, which negatively affects wastewater system reliability.

Agenda Item 2 – Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order (SSS-WDR)

BACWA and RB2 staff discussed how they are each engaging with State Water Board staff during the review and comment period for the Informal Staff Draft SSS-WDR. Tom Mumley is representing Region 2 and working in a sub-group with other representatives from other Regional Water Boards. BACWA’s Regulatory Program Manager is representing BACWA members and working through CASA. BACWA will stay in communication with Region 2 regarding its concerns and recommendations for the SSS-WDR.

Agenda Item 3 – Climate Change Adaptation

The climate change vulnerability and adaptation survey is ready to release soon after the “test drive” results are completed by approximately April 9th. BACWA will provide the Regional Water Board with a distribution list for the survey.

Agenda Item 4 – PFAS

SFEI has received nearly all of the Phase 1 PFAS study results from the analytical laboratory. The results will be shared with BACWA staff, agencies that participated in sampling, and Regional Water Board staff prior to the RMP Emerging Contaminants working group meeting scheduled for April 12-13th. The results are likely to be shared at the RMP Emerging Contaminants working group meeting, unless precluded by data quality issues.

RB2 staff supported exploring the concept of accepting wastewater from decontamination of PFAS from fire-fighting equipment; a helpful first step would be to compare the expected load with the current influent load based on Phase 1 monitoring.

RB2 staff expect continued discussions about the impact of PFAS on biosolids land application, particularly as the State Water Board updates the statewide order for biosolids land application. PFAS source control is also likely to be a hot topic going forward.

Agenda Item 5 – Alternate Monitoring Requirements Overhaul

The group discussed that reduced monitoring to support RMP CEC monitoring will have dual benefits: (a) reduced monitoring costs for legacy contaminants, and (b) cost efficiency on CEC monitoring, which will likely be required in the future. Requiring CEC monitoring in individual NPDES permits would be a more costly alternative. BACWA will continue to develop a specific proposal for implementation with the statewide toxicity provisions, expected in Q3 2021. Cessation of acute toxicity monitoring will also be included in the proposal.

Agenda Item 6 – Chlorine Residual Basin Plan Amendment

The Chlorine Basin Plan Amendment is tentatively scheduled for the May 18th State Water Board hearing. The group discussed the possibility of developing a blanket permit amendment that would automatically go into effect with the Basin Plan Amendment.

Agenda Item 7 – Nutrients

The BACWA ED discussed results of a recent member survey regarding nutrient load

projections, as well as BACWA's upcoming effort to explore the effects of variability on theoretical load cap compliance. RB2 staff stated that once load caps are established, it is unlikely that they would be increased without significant new scientific information. BACWA is developing a Watershed Permit key tenets document for consideration by RB2 staff.

Tangentially related to nutrients, RB2 staff also expressed interest in directly engaging with LSB stakeholders regarding reverse osmosis concentrate discharge.

Agenda Item 8 – Future of Pretreatment Programs

EPA has divested from pretreatment program oversight. The State Water Board is staffing up its pretreatment and CECs program, to be led by Erica Kalve. The focus of this State Water Board group is likely to be potable reuse projects rather than traditional pretreatment program concerns (e.g., metals). RB2 staff are interested in hearing ways to streamline the pretreatment auditing process now that this task will fall entirely to them.

Agenda Item 9 – Triennial Review

RB2 will be kicking off the 2021 triennial review process in the coming months. RB2 has limited capacity for taking on new projects, but plans to include topics such as the wetlands policy as well as housekeeping items for the Basin Plan (such as removing toxicity language that has been superseded by statewide provisions). RB2 staff also suggested that the Basin Plan could be used to establish chronic toxicity dilution credits for shallow water dischargers.