



July 1, 2021

James Parrish
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

VIA EMAIL: James.Parrish@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: 2021 Nutrient Watershed Permit - Special Studies Status Report

Dear James Parrish,

On behalf of BACWA's member agencies covered by the Nutrient Watershed Permit (R2-2019-017), BACWA is pleased to submit this 2021 status update on our work to perform 1) the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems; and 2) the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Water Recycling. This update is required by the Nutrient Watershed Permit Provisions VI.C.2.c and VI.C.3.c.

Following the submission of the two Scoping and Evaluation Plans in December 2019, BACWA has worked with its consulting teams to make significant progress on both of the Special Studies. The teams working on the two projects are collaborating to ensure that their work products will be comparable to one another as well as to the data provided in the Optimization and Upgrade Report submitted in compliance with the first Watershed Permit.

For the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems, the team has completed the following tasks:

- Quarterly meetings have taken place with the Contract Management Group, which is comprised of representatives from BACWA and aligned stakeholders, including the Regional Water Board, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and Valley Water.
- The project team has convened and participated in meetings to encourage coordination among projects aligned to this project, including the Bay Area One Water Network, Transforming Shorelines, and Bay Adapt.
- A request for information from agencies participating in this project was completed in mid-2021. The information obtained from this request supports site-specific analyses that will inform future efforts, and identifies opportunities and constraints not reflected in the desk-based study.
- A desk-based analysis to identify candidate sites was completed in January 2021, serving to identify opportunities and constraints to nature-based systems deployment based primarily on geography. This effort was described in an Opportunities and Constraints report which will be incorporated in this effort's Final Report. This GIS-driven analysis

identified sites most suitable for nature-based systems for nutrient management and will inform site-specific studies.

- Current activities, as of mid-2021, focus on site-specific outreach and investigations. Outreach has been performed to all thirty-eight agencies participating in this project. Of those, interviews were conducted with fourteen agencies; one site visit occurred at the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM), and email responses were received from fifteen agencies. Outreach to an additional nine agencies is outstanding. Information collected through this outreach process will be reflected in revisions to the Opportunities and Constraints report. In addition, for those agencies where nature-based systems opportunities have been identified, memoranda shall be prepared to explore options and constraints further and identify design alternatives.

For the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Water Recycling, the team has completed the following tasks:

- The project team has delivered bimonthly updates on progress to BACWA via our Recycled Water Committee. An initial request for information was sent out and returned by all the agencies who are participating in the evaluation. This request for information updated the recycled water volumes/types expected through year 2045 from the data collected in the first Watershed Permit Optimization and Upgrade Report. It also provided context on any barriers/drivers for the advancement of recycled projects at each agency.
- Draft individual agency report templates have been developed, reviewed, and finalized with oversight from BACWA's Recycled Water Committee.
- Eleven individual agency reports have been developed in draft form.
- The Final Report will have a similar layout to the first Watershed Permit Optimization and Upgrade Report, in that it will include a main body that summarizes and synthesizes the individual agency reports. The individual agency reports will be included as appendices.

BACWA anticipates submitting the Final Reports for the two Special Studies in advance of the July 1, 2023 deadline.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Lorien Fono

Executive Director
Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

BACWA Special Studies Status Report
July 1, 2021

cc: BACWA Board
BACWA Watershed Permit Points of Contact
Tom Mumley, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Robert Schlipf, Regional Water Quality Control Board