



Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Meeting Notes

August 18, 2021, 10 am

1. Introductions

There were 34 attendees representing 22 Northern California wastewater agencies, including four invited guests: Diana Lin and Martin Trinh from SFEI, and Nanami Yoshimura and Stephen Groner from SGA Marketing.

2. Regional Board Announcements

Bill Johnson and Jessica Watkins from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board attended the meeting and provided the following announcements:

- A recruitment process to replace the BAPPG representative (formerly Debbie Phan) is underway, with the goal of having a new staff person starting by October or November 2021.
- The Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award will be awarded at the October meeting of the Regional Water Board.
- The [August 2021 Executive Officer's report](#) includes information about SSOs caused by wipes, as well as examples of public outreach via Twitter to reduce the problem.
- To have your agency highlighted in a future Executive Officer's report, contact [Jessica Watkins](#). To subscribe to Regional Water Board announcements via email, use [this link](#). The Regional Water Board also posts announcements on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

3. Updates

- Steering Committee:** The fall advertising campaign by SGA will focus on FOG and "Toilets aren't trash cans." [Gel Pack informational materials](#) are now available on the [Baywise](#) website. 99% of budget was used in FY21.
- BACWA Announcements:** Members can voice their support for federal legislation on wipes labeling by customizing this [template letter](#). Results of Phase 1 of the PFAS Regional Study are summarized in this [Fact Sheet](#).
- OWOW:** Negotiations are ongoing to determine whether CASQA will adopt OWOW.
- CWEA.** The P3S Conference will be held in Long Beach from Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2022. Join the CWEA email list by sending a blank email to CWEAP3S+subscribe@groups.io. For more info about the CWEA P3S committee and ways to connect <http://p3s.cwea.org/about/>

4. Main Discussion: Pollutant Prioritization for FY22-23

The main agenda item for this meeting was pollutant prioritization for FY22-23.

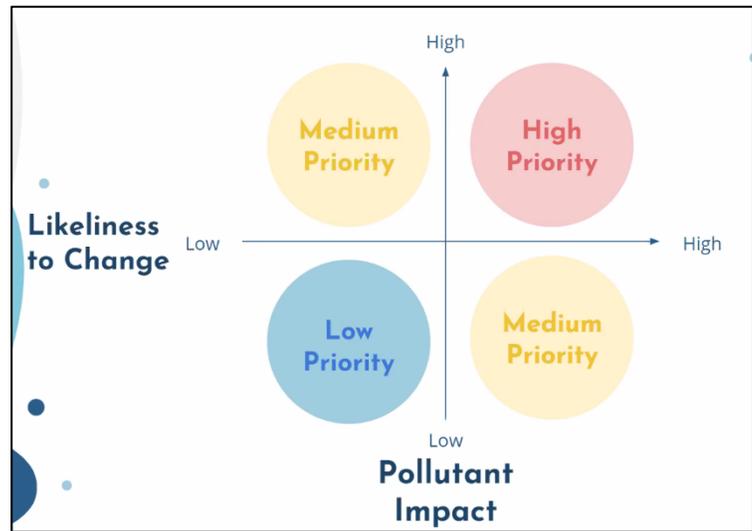
Diana Lin from SFEI provided a presentation on the Regional Monitoring Program's process for prioritizing constituents of emerging concern (CECs) for San Francisco Bay. There are currently no CECs of "high concern," but there are several CECs in the "moderate concern" category:

- PFAS

- Alkylphenols and Alkylphenol Ethoxylates
- Fipronil, Imidacloprid (pesticides)
- Bisphenols
- Organophosphate Esters
- Microplastics

Dr. Lin provided details about the monitoring strategy in San Francisco Bay for each of these pollutants, as well as for oxybenzone (a sunscreen). The presentation is available on the [BACWA website](#).

Stephen Groner from SGA provided background on public outreach. A good public outreach strategy targets pollutants that have both a high “pollutant impact” AND high “likeliness to change,” as illustrated in the graphic at right. Discussion ensued about how to identify pollutants that fall within this quadrant.



Member agency representatives shared highest-priority pollutants for their respective agencies, and brainstormed the following list of pollutants of concern: PFAS, microplastics, wipes, pesticides including fipronil, FOG, construction-related pollutants such as styrene; pharmaceuticals; copper; and other trash such as dental floss.

The meeting broke into groups to discuss each of these questions for the pollutants of concern:

- 1) What is the risk to WWTP, Staff, or the Environment?
- 2) What is the Pollution Prevention action we are seeking?
- 3) Is this a pollutant that would benefit from a regional effort?
- 4) Is the action in the Science, Regulatory, or Outreach category?

Based on member votes, the final prioritized list is:

- **PFAS.** Focus will be on research (Phase 2 of PFAS Regional Study), developing informational materials, and exploring policy or regulatory action. A clear public message has not yet been developed.
- **Pesticides** – Focus will continue to be on flea and tick medication, including direct public outreach and outreach to veterinarians.
- **“Toilets aren’t trash cans”** – Wipes and other trash, including pharmaceuticals.
- **FOG** – Continues to be important due to the nexus with sewer overflows.

5. **Next meeting** – October 6th, 2021, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom.