



Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Meeting Notes

October 6, 2021, 10 am

1. Introductions

There were 36 attendees representing 24 wastewater agencies and the Regional Water Board.

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. The recruitment period closes on October 25. More info is available on [CalCareers](#).
- This year's recipient of the Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award will be selected in the coming weeks.

3. Updates

- **Steering Committee:** The fall advertising campaign by SGA is underway and will run through November. The focus is on FOG and "Toilets aren't trash cans." So far the campaign has received 4,000 page views and 5,200 "clicks" at an average cost of 17 cents each. Two illustrations for committee use are shown below, and they contain links to the source files on the BACWA website.



Budget is on track. Since the fall campaign is underway, budget numbers may be outdated.

- **BACWA Announcements:** BACWA commends Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for assisting with sampling method development for the microplastics study being conducted by POTWs around the state. [California Product Stewardship Council](#) will be presenting to the BACWA Board on Friday, December 17th.
- **CWEA.** The P3S Conference will be held at the Long Beach Hyatt from Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2022. The [Call for Proposals](#) runs through October 13th.

4. Santa Rosa's PFAS Sampling and Results

Robert Wilson (Santa Rosa) presented on the City's experience sampling for PFAS in influent, effluent, biosolids, and groundwater as required by the July 2020 Statewide Investigative Order [WQ 2020-015-WQ](#). Robert recommended the film "[The Devil We Know](#)" for background information about the risks of

PFAS contamination. A copy of the presentation is available [here](#). Robert shared the following insights from the City's sampling and analysis effort:

- Collecting “blank” samples is very important due to ubiquitous PFAS contamination in consumer products. The City was pleased to see that all the “blanks” were non-detects, especially given the effort required to construct a PFAS-free stainless steel sampling apparatus for biosolids.
- Influent had noticeable seasonal variation, but the reason is not known.
- The landfill may be responsible for some of the influent variability, but additional work is required to understand the magnitude of this potential source.
- Long-chain PFAS were more prevalent in biosolids than in influent and effluent.
- Concentrations underlying the biosolids land application areas were the highest observed in this study.

5. BACWA PFAS Study Update

Mary Cousins (BACWA Regulatory Program Manager) provided an update on the PFAS Regional Study led by BACWA in the San Francisco Bay region, which is in lieu of inclusion in the July 2020 Statewide Investigative Order for POTWs. BACWA and SFEI's full September 1st presentation to the Clean Water Summit Partners PFAS Workshop #4 is available [here](#). All presentation videos and slides from the workshop are available [here](#). General observations from Phase 1 of the Regional Study and preliminary statewide data include the following:

- Median concentrations in influent and effluent from BACWA's Regional Study are about ½ of the median influent and effluent concentrations from the rest of the state.
- Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP) analysis shows that there is a significant presence of unknown PFAS precursors in influent and biosolids. TOP analysis of effluent was not included in Phase 1, but will be included in Phase 2.
- BACWA Phase 1 data and preliminary statewide monitoring data agree on the importance of non-industrial loading. Both data sets show that service areas that are 100% residential and commercial can have high PFAS concentrations, comparable or even higher than residential/commercial/industrial service areas. However, industrial loading is still expected to be an important consideration, especially for specific analytes.

Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study will begin later this fall. Phase 2 will include sampling upstream within sewersheds, including specific types of commercial and industrial users (e.g., laundries).

The State's [EPA Actions to Address PFAS | US EPA](#) products for children, and prohibiting PFAS in disposable food packaging. OEHHA is developing public health goals for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. Meanwhile, EPA is developing analysis methods for water and wastewater ([Draft Method 1633](#)), preparing pretreatment regulations, and supporting scientific research (see [EPA Actions to Address PFAS](#)).

6. Public Outreach During COVID

Attendees shared how they are conducting public outreach with COVID restrictions still in place. Many agencies reported relying on virtual outreach using social media and virtual meetings. Some of the strategies shared included the following:

Video Tours

- CCCSD has created an immersive video tour experience for the District's 75th Anniversary, available at www.centernalsan.org/75th
- [Benicia](#) and [Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District](#) also reported creating online videos, which can be paired with educational materials for use in the classroom. Vallejo noted that the video content is also useful for recruiting.
- EBMUD and Santa Rosa are close to releasing their online video tours. Santa Rosa's will include Spanish and English versions.

Interactive Virtual Events

- Napa San had an online scavenger hunt for Earth Day. Vallejo (which also has stormwater responsibilities) had an interactive trash pickup event.
- SVCW continues to hold live virtual events where staff join a classroom live on Zoom to look at microorganisms under the microscope.

Video for Social Media

- West County Wastewater District has created humorous outreach videos related to [FOG](#) and [What Not to Flush](#).

Returning to Outdoors, In-Person Events

- Several agencies are returning to outdoor events like Farmers Markets, parades, outside-only plant tours, and outside-only educational outreach at schools.

7. Next meeting – December 1st, 2021, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom.