

Committee Request for Board Action: none

Regular meeting: 30 attendees via Zoom representing 24 member agencies and the Regional Water Board.

ELTAC New Methods Validation Guide

A subcommittee of ELTAC has released a [draft guidebook](#) for accrediting experimental methods used for emerging contaminants. The guidebook is a response to concerns generated during the PFAS statewide monitoring study, because there were no approved methods for PFAS. The draft has been circulated to the committee by email. The guidebook affects not only members with their own laboratory, but also members that might use a contract laboratory to run experimental methods. Comments on the draft guidebook should be provided to Nicole Van Aken or Mary Cousins by January 7th, 2022.

Agency Reports

Central San hired a contractor to complete a TNI pre-assessment for the laboratory, which was completed virtually. It was a good learning experience and highly recommended to the group. One item that was discussed in the pre-assessment was whether or not to average results for duplicates. [Attachment G](#) states that “The Discharger shall report the average of duplicate sample analyses when reporting for a single sample result (or the median if one or more of the duplicates is DNQ or ND [see Provision V.C.1.c.ii, above]).” In 2019, Regional Water Board staff member James Parrish [clarified by email](#) that “the hard requirement really applies to the splitting of samples,” and is not a blanket requirement for all duplicates.

Palo Alto reported results from a 3rd party safety audit, which included a focus on the need for autoclave SOPs for treatment of medical waste. There was a discussion about using alternative organisms to avoid needing to have a biosafety level 2 facility.

Attendees shared information about DO data management. Hach offers a free [BOD Manager](#) program that helps automate this task. You can export your file into a CSV format which can be opened by Excel.

The group discussed potentially having an ethics training as part of a future meeting. Hayward staff noted that APHL offers free ethics training courses. [Environmental Laboratory Ethics Resources \(aphl.org\)](#). An update from ELAP staff is another possible meeting topic.

Chlorine Blanket Permit Amendment

In October, the Regional Water Board adopted a [blanket permit amendment](#) modifying chlorine effluent limits and removing oil & grease monitoring requirements for BACWA members. The changes come into effect on the first day of the month after EPA approval. Members should make sure chlorine data have the right number of significant digits before uploading to CIWQS. The expected effective date is **March 1**.

Monitoring and Reporting Program – Blanket Permit Amendment

The effective date for the [MRP Permit Amendment](#) is January 1, 2022. This Order reduces effluent mercury monitoring for most Bay dischargers, as well as influent mercury monitoring, influent VOC and BNA monitoring, and biosolids VOC and BNA monitoring for some dischargers with pretreatment programs.

Results of PFAS Regional Study, Phase 2

SFEI is now under contract to prepare a Sampling and Analysis Plan for Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study, which will include sampling at 6 member agencies and will include analysis of individual PFAS analytes, Total Oxidizable Precursors, Total organofluorine, and polyfluoroalkyl phosphates (PAPs).

TNI Training and Implementation

- The 6th TNI training session with Diane Lawver is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21st. Recordings of previous sessions are available through the BACWA website (password required).
- On January 25, 2022, CVCWA and BACWA will host a [Sampling and Sample Receipt training](#) session with Bill Ray.

Next Regular Meeting: February 8, 2022, 10 AM – 12 PM via Zoom