



BAY AREA POLLUTION PREVENTION GROUP

A Committee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Covering reporting period of 1/1/21 – 12/31/21

BAPPG Chair: Autumn Cleave

BAPPG Co Chair: Robert Wilson

BAPPG Vice Chair: Joe Neugebauer

Prepared by: Joe Neugebauer

Submitted to: Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

Date: February 7, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a subcommittee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), is comprised of 43 Bay Area wastewater agencies that work together to coordinate pollution prevention activities and leverage resources for smaller agencies to reduce the amount of toxic pollutants discharged into the San Francisco Bay and local waterways. Wastewater agency representatives meet monthly to share information, leverage resources, and develop regional activities that help member agencies meet regulatory outreach requirements and BAPPG goals.

2021 COMMITTEE UPDATES

All files pertaining to BAPPG are being added to the BACWA BAPPG webpage (<https://bacwa.org/committees/bay-area-pollution-prevention-group/>). This includes meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports, presentations, and information on pollutants of concern.

2021-2022 BAPPG officers were selected:

- Chair – Autumn Cleave, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Co-Chair – Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa
- Vice Chair – Joe Neugebauer, West County Wastewater District

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

This report serves as an update to BACWA and member agencies for all BAPPG projects, by pollutant, which took place from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

1. COPPER
2. FATS OILS AND GREASE (FOG)
3. MERCURY AND SILVER
4. PESTICIDES
5. PHARMACEUTICALS
6. TRASH AND WIPES

1. POLLUTANT: COPPER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Copper pipe corrosion has been a major concern to the wastewater community for more than a decade. For many years, the messages have focused on proper installation, including the use of a water-based flushable flux. In California, there are also alternatives to copper pipe for potable and non-potable installations, such as PEX. Further, copper is a pesticide used in swimming pools and spas and incorporated into fabrics.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Select only ASTM B813 water-flushable flux rather than petroleum-based flux (which is not flushable and increases pipe corrosion rates).
2. Incorporate additional BMPs during design, reaming, cleaning, and building commissioning that will reduce pipe corrosion rate.
3. Seek mitigation options for copper products that are used in swimming pools, spas, and fountain treatments (often drained to sanitary sewer) as well as copper-treated fabrics that are subsequently laundered.

NEXT STEPS

Baywise.org has resources for plumbers that focus on the key messages above. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2, has confirmed that the outreach materials on baywise.org are sufficient for copper education and outreach.

2. POLLUTANT: FATS, OILS AND GREASE

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

FOG is a top priority due to the associated regulatory and financial impacts to member agencies. FOG is a major problem for sewer systems, causing sewer back-ups, sewer overflows onto streets, and foul sewer odors. Because of this, cities often spend millions of dollars a year responding to grease-related sewer blockages and in infrastructure improvements.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Don't pour grease down the drain – collect and recycle used cooking oil

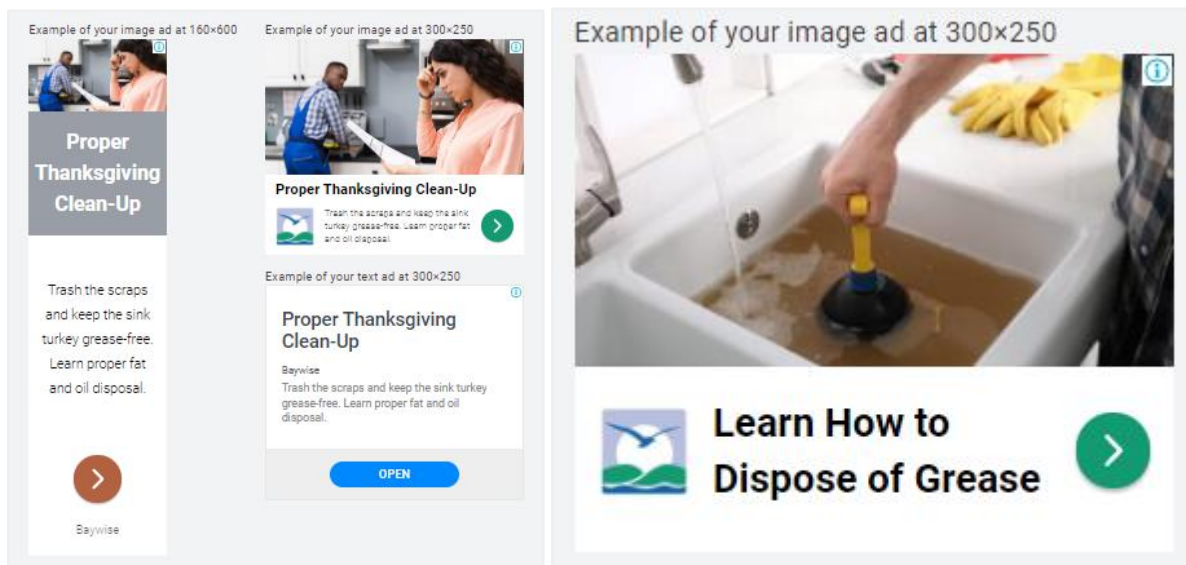
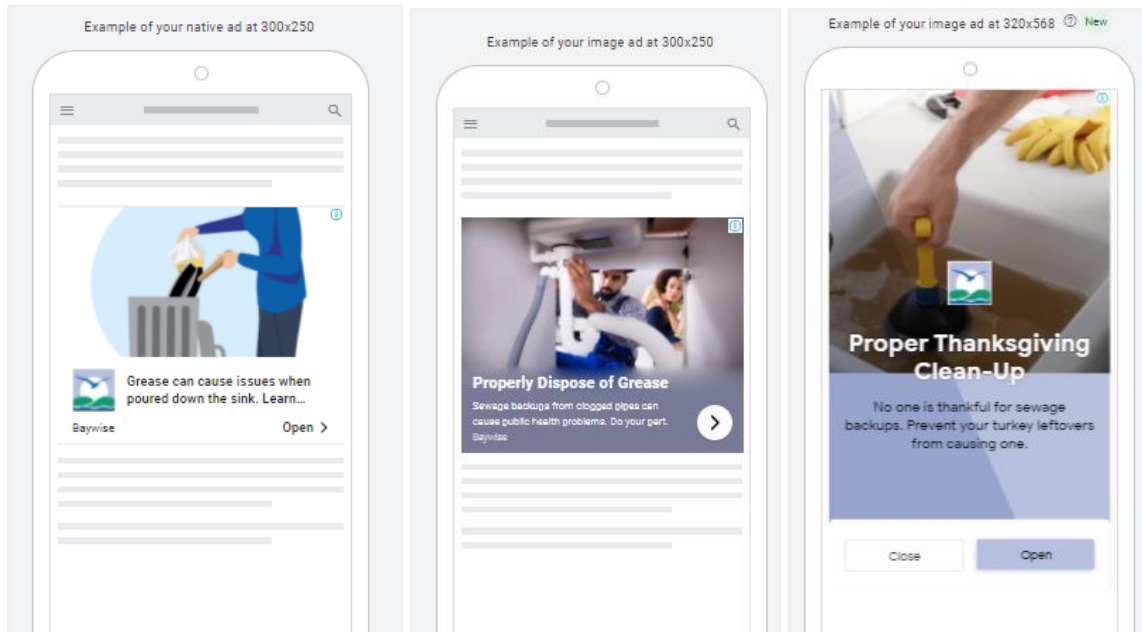
Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Outreach: Fats, Oils, & Grease	<p>SGA ran an awareness campaign consisting of two campaign segments. Between September 20 and October 19, 2021, SGA ran the first half with a general reminder message about proper FOG disposal. The second half was shorter and more concentrated with messaging about proper FOG disposal tied with Thanksgiving cooking and food. This ran from November 11th to 28th to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday.</p> <p>SGA also created a new campaign landing page on baywise.org to provide information about FOG and to promote proper FOG disposal, and incorporated custom illustrations to showcase proper oil disposal methods. See https://baywise.org/residential/fog/</p>	Calendar Year 2021	\$8,000

Results

Google Ads:

- Impressions = 2,721,847
- Total Clicks = 22,248
- Average Cost Per Click = \$0.18
- Clicks by County
 - Santa Clara County = 8,386
 - San Francisco = 5,743
 - Alameda County = 3,574
 - Solano County = 1,629
 - Contra Costa County = 1,165
 - San Mateo County = 859
 - Sonoma County = 558
 - Napa County = 174
 - Marin County = 160

MATERIALS (Google Responsive Display Ads assets)




MATERIALS (Campaign landing page)

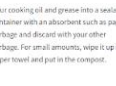
BAYWISE.ORG
ABOUT RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONTACT TWO RECYCLING CENTER

FAT, GREASE AND OIL


What to do with your fats, oils, and grease from cooking?




Never pour fats, oils, or grease into your sink, even if you have a garbage disposal.




Pour cooking oil and grease into a sealable container with an absorbent such as paper garbage and discard with your other garbage. For small amounts, wipe it up in a paper towel and put in the compost.



Recycle large amounts of grease or cooking oil (including from deep fryers) at Bay Area grease recycling locations.



Use food strainers in kitchen sinks to catch food particles and scrape leftover food water into the garbage or compost container instead of the garbage disposal.



Sewer backups require fast attention due to potential exposure to harmful bacteria. To report sewer problems in your neighborhood, call your local non-emergency police department hotline or your City's Public Works Department.

RESIDENTIAL ARTICLES

- Around Your Home
- In Your Home
- Your Toilet
- Your Garden
- Your Car
- Out and About
- Ten Easy Tips
- Your Pool, Spa & Fountain
- Pest Control
- En Su Hogar
- Your Pets
- Fat, Grease and Oil**

Where are fats, oils and grease found?

These include animal and vegetable oils, fats that are used for cooking food. Some examples are cooking oil, butter, lard, shortening, margarine, greasy, sauces, meats, sour cream, and mayonnaise. While these give our food delicious flavor and texture, they can also cause havoc if not properly disposed of.

Why are fats, oils and grease a problem?

Fats, oils and grease may appear as a liquid when cooking because it has been heated. But when they are poured into our sinks, they cool down, harden and stick to the walls of our pipes. They can become so hard and sticky that cleaning pipes becomes extremely difficult, or worse, the backup of sewage caused by clogged drains can travel back up into your sink, bringing with it health risks. In extreme cases, it may require pipe replacement which can be very costly.

BAYWISE.ORG

This website is a collaboration between the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), pollution prevention group known as the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), and the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BSMAA). We have come together to educate Bay Area residents and businesses about simple, cost-effective ways to protect San Francisco Bay by preventing pollution at the source.

Residential

- Around Your Home
- In Your Home
- Your Toilet
- Your Garden
- Your Car
- Out and About

Business

- Ten Easy Tips
- Your Pool, Spa & Fountain
- Pest Control
- En Su Hogar
- Your Pets
- Fat, Grease and Oil

Dental Office Resources

- Plumbing Resources
- Restaurant Resources
- Marina & Boatyard Resources
- Veterinary Resources

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Facebook Twitter Instagram

NEXT STEPS

Staff from member agencies and the BAPPG outreach consultant will continue to monitor and update Baywise.org with relevant information.

3. POLLUTANT: MERCURY AND SILVER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Outreach regarding best management practices for dental amalgam and silver fixer waste is essential to ensure member agencies continue to meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Dental amalgam and silver fixer wastes are hazardous and shall not be disposed in dental office sinks.
2. Incorporate BMPs for dental amalgam, silver fixer, and other hazardous wastes within a dental office.
3. The mandated use of BMPs and amalgam separators has significantly decreased the mercury loads into the sewer.
4. As of July 2017, the US EPA is mandating the installation of amalgam separators and the use of several key BMPs.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Stephanie Hughes served as a guest speaker in dental assistant / hygienist classes in local colleges throughout the Bay Area. Due to pandemic, switched from in-person to online Zoom format.	Calendar Year 2021	\$1,500

Results

Instructors were very appreciative of the pivot from in-class to virtual Zoom support. Reached a total of 68 students and instructors at the following site visits:

- San Jose City College (virtual)
 - College of Marin, Novato (virtual)

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses and consumers who advocate that producers fairly share responsibility to achieve a circular economy.	Calendar Year 2021	\$10,000

Results

- AB 707 Mercury Thermostats Extended Producer Responsibility
 - Signed into law on October 5, 2021.
 - This bill repeals the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 and recasts the program as part of the state's hazardous waste control laws, as the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2021. The bill requires each manufacturer of mercury-added thermostats on or before March 1, 2022, to contract with or

retain a qualified third party, as defined, to develop and implement a convenient, cost effective, and efficient program for the collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats.

- Bill requires a customer returning a mercury thermostat to be paid \$30 – the highest incentive in the nation!
- All retailers can obtain a free mercury thermostat collection box.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to provide a guest speaker to local colleges via the zoom format and/or in-person instruction, as appropriate. The instructors have come to rely on these annual visits and have incorporated BAPPG’s program into their instructional calendar. Further, this is a very relevant audience for other messages, such as wipes, microbeads, and flea control. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality.

4. POLLUTANT: PESTICIDES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Indoor and outdoor application of pesticides can result in chemical runoff into the sewer systems and receiving waters, leading to lower pollutant removal efficiencies at treatment plants, potential biosolids management and recycled water use limitations, as well as aquatic ecosystem degradation.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Promote integrated pest management and less-toxic products as alternatives to pesticides.
2. Seek alternatives to fipronil and imidacloprid and other topical (collar and spot-on) pet treatments (conducted alternative analysis, completed talking points for veterinarians and messages for general public).
3. Work with pesticides regulators to improve their ability to address POTWs during pesticide registration, to support their monitoring efforts, and to implement mitigation when needed.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
OWOW	Our Water Our World (OWOW) is a Bay Area-wide outreach program that promotes the use of less-toxic pest control methods and products in the home and garden through local retailers.	Calendar Year 2021	\$10,000

Results

- Coordinated program implementation with major chains Home Depot, and Ace Hardware National. Home Depot Corporate (Atlanta) directed support of the program with their stores.
- Maintained an inventory of the following: fact sheets, shelf tags, literature rack display signage, *10 Most Wanted* brochures, *Pest or Pal Activity Guide for Kids*, custom-designed product guide dispensers, and three versions of product guides (Home Depot and generic), from which participating agencies could purchase materials.
- Updated less-toxic Product Lists: three versions – Master by-pest, Master by-manufacturer, and

Home Depot product-by-pest.

- Updated / revised Home Depot and General Pest calendars to reflect additional pests and products.
- Updated / revised Home Depot and General How Products work handout, research new products, and active ingredients.
- Revised all training packet handouts – revised and updated information, added new dates and contact.
- Revised and updated Herbicide Alternatives handout for Advocates.
- Coordinated employee trainings and tabling events at *Our Water, Our World* stores.
- Maintained [Our Water, Our World website](#). Sent user survey to agencies, retailers, IPM Advocates, and others seeking feedback on how the website is used and what improvements are needed.
- Provided and staffed exhibitor booths:
 - L&L Dealer Show, virtual (October 2021).
- Participated in UCIPM Continuing Education for IPM Advocates.
- Below are some outputs and outcomes for FY 20-21:
 - 85 *Our Water, Our World* store trainings.
 - 626 employees trained at *Our Water, Our World* stores.
 - 8 in-person tabling events at *Our Water, Our World* stores.
 - 222 customers contacted by Advocates at tabling events at stores.
 - In lieu of in-person public outreach due to covid, 48 OWOW IPM educational webinars were conducted where 3932 people were reached through virtual classes bringing the total people reached with both in-person and virtual events = 4,202 people
The Home Depot stores reported to have increased the number of eco-products by roughly 25%.
It was reported that the sales of Ortho’s 3-in-1, pyrethrin and sulfur eco-pesticide was up 17%.
Eco-friendly pesticides are more popular than ever. Vendors and retailers noted that “the organic categories were extremely strong due to the millennials”.
 - Home Depot continues to increase their less toxic product offerings by approximately 25%.
The sales of eco-pesticide categories continues to remain strong.

Final Note: Due to the covid pandemic, supply chain issues and labor shortages impacted the garden industry significantly. It was another very challenging year due to large absences in the retail stores, the breakdown in the supply chain and restocking items, and many businesses were running their businesses with a fraction of the usual staff.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Flea & Tick Outreach to Veterinarians	Evaluate flea products with regards to pathways to sewers. Develop and communicate recommendations for pet owners and veterinarians to reduce impact to sewers. Conduct trainings to veterinary students and professional associations.	Calendar Year 2021	\$13,500
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Insights about proper flea control included as part of dental waste discussion.	Calendar Year 2021	N/A*

Results

- Continued the development of outreach messages regarding alternatives to fipronil and imidacloprid and other topical pet treatments.
- In Fall 2018, updated the dental training to incorporate information regarding flea pet control. In 2021 reached 68 dental trainees and instructors (per Mercury section).
- Given the pandemic, refrained from seeking opportunities to reach the general public. Focus shifted to the national organization, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
- Initiated communications with the AVMA Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI), with an introductory meeting in January and follow up discussions in July and November.
- Answered questions from the AVMA CEI about outdoor fipronil uses and the fate and transport of active ingredients indoors, including extensive emails and documentation.
- Updated flea/tick alternatives to expand upon physical tick controls per the recommendation of AVMA CEI; updated Baywise.org text accordingly.
- Reached out to the Foothill College Veterinary Technician program for second year in a row. Conducted training of their Vet Tech students via a Zoom virtual presentation. The topic was quite well received by the 35 students and their instructor. The students asked excellent questions and had insights about how to reach out to clients.
- Provided a Zoom presentation to 106 wastewater and pretreatment professionals at the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Conference.
- Reviewed new materials from the cities of Palo Alto and San Jose and reviewed how to incorporate San Jose’s catchphrase (“choose chewables”) and Palo Alto’s new brief online video.
- Developed draft outreach materials that include a letter to vets and an outreach flyer for their clients.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking and Communications	<p>The BAPPG Pesticides Workgroup addresses pesticide pollution by engaging in pesticide registration reviews by both the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). These registration review process includes opportunities for public comment. Typical annual activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tracking and prioritizing USEPA and DPR re-registration reviews ● educating staff from DPR and USEPA about local pesticide pollution data and concerns; ● engaged in scientific and management conversations with EPA and DPR regarding new scientific evidence linking pet flea control treatments and fipronil and imidacloprid in POTW effluent; and ● submitting comment letters during the pesticide re-registration process through BACWA 	Calendar Year 2021	\$60,000

Results

- Coordinated with BAPPG to update the list of highest priorities pesticides for BACWA's attention. Created an updated pesticide watch list for tracking purposes.
- Tracked pesticide-related regulatory activities by EPA and DPR and new scientific information that have significant potential to affect BACWA member agencies. Notified BAPPG of such items as they arose. Provided a "crystal ball" near-term priorities tracking summary, updated monthly or bimonthly.
- On the basis of regulatory documents, relevant scientific information, and the regulatory context, made recommendations regarding regulatory participation or other follow-up steps on multiple EPA and DPR actions..
- Submitted a comment letter to DPR in response to their human health risk assessment of fipronil, describing implications of fipronil in wastewater effluent for the feasibility of potable reuse.
- Submitted 5 comment letters to the USEPA which explained the pesticide transport route to the sanitary sewer and related scientific studies for priority pesticides:¹
 - **Pyrethrins** - There are numerous pyrethrins products that are used in the indoor environment including carpet sprays, home sprays, home foggers, home lice sprays, and bedbug products. EPA acknowledged that indoor uses result in risks of concern for aquatic organisms. This letter supported EPA's proposed mitigations, including labeling changes, which are expected to result in reduced risks of exposure to non-target aquatic organisms in downstream surface waters
 - Neonics (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiomethoxam) – This letter presented our disappointment that the EPA's Draft Biological Evaluations for the Neonicotinoid Insecticides Clothianidin did not include the indoor sources of neonicotinoids that are subsequently discharged to municipal wastewater systems, pass through POTWs, and result in discharges that pose ecological risks. This omission was despite detailed scientific evidence previously shared with EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) on multiple occasions since 2017.
 - **Busan-77** - Continued BACWA's work to ensure that EPA requires applicable products to carry new swimming pool, spa, and fountain product label language to direct owners to contact their local sanitation agency prior to discharging treated water.
 - **Novaluron** - In its 2020 Draft Environmental Risk Assessment, EPA stated that POTW discharge analysis is unnecessary because agricultural discharge would be representative of POTW discharge. We fail to understand how modeling agricultural novaluron applications and subsequent runoff from a treated agricultural field could provide any scientific insights on the discharges of novaluron into the sewer system and its subsequent passage through POTW treatment processes... POTW modeling is needed to inform

¹ The BACWA EPA pesticide comment letters can be found at bacwa.org/document-category/comment-letters/.

Results

POTW-specific mitigation measures...EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED) can use the detailed label analysis tables developed by EPA's Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD) to identify uses with pathways to POTWs.

- **Cyhalothrins (a pyrethroid)** - Despite finding substantial (orders of magnitude) differences in aquatic risks among the pyrethroids and pyrethrins, EPA issued a single risk mitigation proposal with only one set of measures covering all 23 pyrethroids and pyrethrins. Due to this gap, EPA's joint pyrethroids/pyrethrins ecological risk mitigation proposal does not include measures that we anticipate will reduce daily discharges or provide measurable reduction in typical POTW discharge risk. Sought a focused evaluation of individual uses that are most closely linked to the external (non-user) costs of pyrethroids use such as pet flea control are necessary to support EPA's decision.
- Thanks to numerous BAPPG letters seeking improvement in label language, the EPA has additional stewardship language to the label mitigation that will address the potential for down-the-drain exposure for several pesticide products. That included incorporating the pictogram at right provided by Dublin San Ramon Sanitary District, a BAPPG member.
- Coordinated with EPA's neonics team to arrange a zoom meeting to express BACWA's concerns on lack of consideration of indoor pesticide use in neonic reports. Helped prepare BACWA Workgroup members to present at meeting. Drafted meeting notes and follow-up emails to EPA after the meeting
- Coordinated with and provided technical support for NACWA and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board, which also sent letters on most of the above items.
- Based on existing open lines of communication with pesticide regulators, pesticide manufacturers, and scientists researching pesticides in wastewater, notified BAPPG of important information obtained through these contacts.
- Provided technical information to support BACWA's coordination with NACWA on Federal pollution prevention topics, including pesticides and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform.
- Tracked TSCA reform implementation and reported to BAPPG workgroup on EPA's activities.
- Coordinated and provided scientific support for communications with EPA and DPR about wastewater pesticides discharges, wastewater pesticides monitoring, and improving wastewater pesticides predictive modeling to support registration decisions. Continued semi-annual informal information-sharing teleconference meetings between BACWA's pesticide workgroup and DPR's wastewater experts. Conducted an information-sharing teleconference between BACWA's pesticide workgroup and pesticides staff at EPA's Region 9.
- Evaluated outcomes of BACWA input to EPA and DPR and briefed BAPPG/BACWA pesticides leads on these outcomes to assess effectiveness of BACWA's work. The following evaluations are available on the BAPPG website:
 - Pyrethrins



Results

- Novaluron (2 tables in 2021 reflecting responses to different letters)
- Metam
- Halohydantoin
- Cyhalothrin
- Busan 77 (2 tables in 2021 reflecting responses to different letters)
- Metam
- Organic esters of phosphoric acid
- Amitraz
- Sodium bromide
- Methoprene
- Cypermethrin
- Carbaryl
- Hypochlorous acid
- Developed an agenda and materials for a monthly BACWA Pesticides Workgroup teleconference meeting to determine appropriate actions and to coordinate actions with NACWA and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff. Provided staff support during the meetings and an action item list after each meeting.
- Briefed the BACWA Board and BAPPG on pesticides regulatory activities and the latest relevant scientific information on pesticides relevant to POTWs.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Flea & Tick Outreach	Between April 1, 2021 and May 31, 2021, SGA ran a Google Responsive Display Ad campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to educate pet owners in the Bay Area on the environmental impact of using external flea and tick medicines by sending them to the “Your Pets” page on Baywise.org.	April 1 – May 31, 2021	\$8,000

Results

Google Ads:

- Impressions = 2,889,241
- Total Clicks = 27,032
- Average Cost Per Click = \$0.12
- Clicks by County
 - Santa Clara County = 11,924
 - San Francisco = 5,106
 - Alameda County = 3,926
 - Contra Costa County = 2,390
 - San Mateo County = 1,231
 - Solano County = 968
 - Sonoma County = 813

- Marin County = 352
- Napa County = 322

MATERIALS

Example of your native ad at 300x250

Flea Medicines Can Be Toxic
The Flea and Tick Control Products You Are Using May Contain Toxic Pesticides.
Baywise [Learn More >](#)

Example of your image ad at 320x568

Is Your Flea Medicine Safe?
You and Your Pets May Have Been Exposed to Toxic Chemicals In Flea and Tick Medicines.
Baywise
[Close](#) [Learn More](#)

Example of your video ad at 320x568 New

Facts About Flea Medicines
Important Facts about Toxic Chemicals in Certain Flea and Tick Control Products.
[Close](#) [Learn More](#)

Example of your image ad at 160x600

Is Your Flea Medicine Safe?
Your Hands, Clothing, Carpets and Floors May be Exposed to Toxic Flea Control Products.
Baywise [>](#)

Example of your image ad at 300x250

Is Your Flea Medicine Safe?
Your Hands, Clothing, Carpets and Floors May be Exposed to Toxic Flea Control Products.
Baywise [>](#)

Example of your text ad at 300x250

Is Your Flea Medicine Safe?
Baywise
Your Hands, Clothing, Carpets and Floors May be Exposed to Toxic Flea Control Products.
[LEARN MORE](#)

Example of your native ad at 480x120

Avoid Exposing Your Pets and Bay Area Waterways to Toxic Pesticides.
Ad Baywise
[Learn More](#)

NEXT STEPS

The BACWA Pesticides Workgroup will continue its collaboration with the AVMA CEI beginning with dialogue regarding possible national survey of veterinarians to gauge their knowledge of pesticide impacts to wastewater as well as their messages and recommendations to clients. The workgroup will also continue to track and comment on the USEPA and DPR re-registration process.

5. POLLUTANT: PHARMACEUTICALS

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Pharmaceuticals can enter water resources and the San Francisco Bay through improper disposal into wastewater streams (e.g., flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet). Pharmaceuticals have endocrine disrupting properties, and unintended exposure of pharmaceuticals to aquatic life and humans can lead to adverse health effects. Outreach surrounding safe disposal of pharmaceuticals is essential to ensure member agencies meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters. There is potential to combine water quality messaging with broader messaging surrounding health and safety to target wider audiences while still ensuring that safe disposal is the key take-away.

KEY MESSAGES

1. No Drugs Down the Drain
2. Don't Rush to Flush – Meds in the Bin, We All Win!
3. Prevent Accidental Poisoning, Drug Abuse and Water Pollution by disposing medicines properly

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Insights about proper pharmaceutical disposal included as part of dental waste discussion.	Calendar Year 2021	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

Results

Reached 68 dental trainees and instructors (per Mercury section).

NEXT STEPS

Continue to include discussions about proper disposal of pharmaceutical wastes in the outreach to dental trainees and instructors.

6. POLLUTANT: TRASH AND WIPES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Trash is a top priority due to the improper disposal of non-woven wipes and other non-flushable trash items such as hair, ear swabs and all products claiming to be biodegradable or flushable. Most consumer wipes products (labeled flushable or not) take much more time to disperse in water than toilet paper, which has caused issues for many POTWs in the Bay Area, including damage to pumping station equipment, grinders and other infrastructure, stoppages, and sanitary sewer overflows. Wipes and other

non-dispersibles are also a safety issue for pump station employees that have suffered needle sticks from “deragging” pumps clogged with wipes.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Wipes Clog Pipes!
2. Toilets Aren’t Trashcans

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	As part of the dental waste discussion, speaker includes insights about microbeads and “flushable” wipes. This audience is very receptive to all BAPPG messages. More than 95% female, they are typically the primary purchaser for their families and as medical professionals, they are concerned about health and water quality.	Calendar Year 2021	N/A*

**Included above with mercury*

Results
Reached 68 dental trainees and instructors (same audience reached as “Mercury” results above).

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses and consumers who advocate that producer fairly share responsibility to achieve a circular economy.	Calendar Year 2022	\$10,000

**Included above with mercury*

Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AB 818 (Bloom): Truth in “Flushable” Wipes Labeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signed into law on October 6, 2021 by Governor Newsom. ○ The bill was co-sponsored by the NSAC, CASA and the National Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (INDA). ○ The bill requires, except as provided, certain premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes manufactured on or after July 1, 2022, to be labeled clearly and conspicuously with the phrase “Do Not Flush” and a related symbol, as specified. The bill would prohibit a covered entity, as defined, from making a representation about the flushable attributes, benefits performance, or efficacy of those premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes, as provided. The bill would establish enforcement provisions, including authorizing a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per violation, to be imposed on a covered entity who violates those provisions. ○ The bill would establish, until January 1, 2027, the California Consumer Education and Outreach Program, under which covered entities would be required, among other things to participate in a collection study conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies

for the purpose of gaining understanding of consumer behavior regarding the flushing of premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes and to conduct a comprehensive multimedia education and outreach program in the state. The bill would require covered entities to annually report to specified legislative committees and the State Water Resources Control Board on their activities under the program and would require the state board to post the reports on its internet website.


- The NSAC created a fact sheet for the bill.
- The NSAC sent coalition support letters to committees and Governor Newsom. BAPPG was one of the signatories.
- National “WIPPEs” Act
 - Based on California’s AB 818, HR 4602: Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (2021), a bipartisan bill, was introduced in the House by Congressman Lowenthal (CA-47) and Congresswoman McClain (MI-10) and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 21, 2021.
 - The bill would require manufacturers of non-flushable wet wipes to clearly and prominently display a “Do Not Flush” label on their packaging and would set fines for manufacturers that do not follow the regulation.
 - The bill would also create an education program to inform consumers of the meaning of the labeling, why the new labeling is required, and the adverse impact of these wipes on water infrastructure systems when flushed.
 - The NSAC created a model letter of support that was signed by BAPPG and sent to the offices of Congressman Lowenthal and Congresswoman McClain.
 - NSAC is currently taking national sign-ons to a letter to be sent in early February to the producers of these products asking them to stop selling products that do not meet dispersibility requirements and follow California’s labeling of wipes as quickly as possible.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Gel Pack Graphic	SGA developed a 1-page fact sheet to be included in the “In Your Home” page on Baywise.org to educate Bay Area residents regarding proper disposal of gel packs and the type of gel pack that should not be disposed of into the sewer system.	April – May 2021	\$3,000

MATERIALS

TRASH or DRAIN?


Know Your Gel Ice Pack



Proper Disposal of Gel Ice Packs

- **Gel ice packs labeled Drain-Safe:** Follow the instructions on the packet to drain the contents and discard the empty pack (Drain-Safe logos may vary).
- **All other gel ice packs:** Dispose of the entire pack in the trash. If there are no instructions or clear labeling on the ice pack, assume it is trash.

As meal kit delivery services grow in popularity, so do the use of gel ice packs. Typical gel ice packs contain sodium polyacrylate, a superabsorbent polymer like the material used in diapers. These polymers thicken when combined with water to form a gel. Never put them down the drain because they could clog pipes and create a mess (or backup) in your house. Make sure to check the labeling of your gel ice packs before disposing of them.



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NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to include messages about trash and wipes when meeting with medical, hospice, and dental professionals and trainees. BAPPG will also distribute collateral during professional presentations and regional outreach events if these in-person events resume during 2022. BAPPG will also continue digital online campaigns in conjunction with National P2 Week to continue stressing the “Wipes Clog Pipes!” and “What to Flush” messages. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality.