

Committee Request for Board Action: none

Regular meeting: 38 attendees via Zoom representing 26 agencies and the Regional Water Board.

Findings and Lessons Learned from TNI-2 Third-Party Assessment

Alexander Chieh (City of San José) shared detailed findings from the City's recent TNI-2 assessment report, completed by an ELAP approved third-party auditor. The City will soon be submitting the assessment report to obtain ELAP accreditation. Alexander shared the following observations about the assessment process:

- The City had recently completed a gap analysis, which made the third-party assessment fast and efficient (scheduled three days but only audited for two).
- At the beginning of the assessment, the team spent about half a day in a conference room discussing procedures, corrective actions, etc. The assessor reviewed all of the City's methods except one (chlorine DPD method).
- Instrument data packages were reviewed for completeness.
- The City felt that one of the findings on the initial assessment report was incorrect. They quickly contacted the assessor, who agreed to remove the disputed finding because it was not a method requirement.
- Although the assessor cannot give detailed guidance on corrective actions, the City was able to get preliminary feedback on proposed corrective actions (i.e., acceptable vs. not acceptable) before submitting the finalized corrective action plan.
- Staff training was a focus area for the assessor, and the City was able to share information about their various staff training initiatives such as internal audit training and manual integration training. The auditor pulled training records for a few of their staff members to make sure their records were available and within the required time frame. Alexander recommended that agencies familiarize themselves with the training materials provided by their assessors prior to the scheduled assessment. For example, the City used IAS, so it was useful to watch the training webinars offered by IAS to understand their assessment outlook.

File-Sharing for Policies and Procedures

The committee plans to establish a shared folder for policies and procedures to assist with the TNI accreditation process. The shared folder will be made accessible upon member request, and there will be some guidance offered for organization of files. Stay tuned for details.

Communication with ELAP About Timeline Guidance

Committee leadership has prepared a letter to send to ELAP to request additional guidance on procedures regarding proficiency testing (PT's). Members discussed their individual laboratory practices with respect to PT when there is a change in methods and PT agreed that additional written guidance from ELAP would be helpful. The draft letter was circulated for committee review and submitted to the BACWA Executive Board for review.

Members should also subscribe to the State Water Board's ELAP listserv [here](#).

ELAP's Christopher Ryan provided [guidance by email](#) regarding PT when there are changes to FOA tables. Several members noted that reporting multiple methods could avoid issues with the transition but would require analyzing samples that were compatible to both methods. If one method had more stringent quality controls than the other, then it would take precedence. Other members analyze and report only one method according to their year of accreditation. Agencies are hoping ELAP can clarify best practice before the next PT cycle.

Other Updates

- SFEI is preparing the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study. It will be complete by March.
- March 1st is the currently anticipated effective date for the Chlorine [blanket permit amendment](#).

- The Mercury/PCB watershed permit will be reissued in 2022 (October or November). A draft permit is anticipated in the late summer or fall. BACWA is collecting input on potential revisions.
- Implementation of the Statewide Toxicity Provisions is still 4-6 months away. In Region 2, the requirements will be rolled out permit-by-permit. Reissued permits will drop acute testing and specify use of the TST method for chronic toxicity tests.

Member discussions

- The use of batch sterilization tape along with monthly bioindicator to satisfy autoclave requirements.
- The calibration of IR devices by an ISO-certified vendor to satisfy requirements to verify inhouse working IR devices.

TNI Training and Implementation

- The 8th TNI training session with Diane Lawver is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th, where the discussion topic will be records control. Recordings of previous sessions are available through the BACWA website (password required).
- On January 25, 2022, CVCWA and BACWA hosted a [Sampling and Sample Receipt training](#) session with Bill Ray (recording also available through the BACWA website)

Upcoming Events

The virtual ELAP conference is scheduled for May 31st to June 3rd. More information is [here](#).

Next Regular Meeting : April 26, 2022, 10 AM – 12 PM via Zoom