



Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Meeting Notes

March 9, 2022, 10 am

1. Introductions

There were 29 attendees representing 21 wastewater agencies and the Regional Water Board.

2. Regional Board Announcements

Alessandra Moyer from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board attended the meeting and introduced herself as the new BAPPG representative. Alessandra announced that the Regional Water Board is planning to issue response letters for 2021 annual pollution prevention reports. Attendees noted that they find these letters useful.

3. Updates

- **Steering Committee:** The spring campaign by SGA, which is designed to peak during Earth Week in April, is in the planning stages. The campaign will include a flea and tick control video adapted from [this video](#) crafted by the City of Palo Alto. The budget is on track, with 41% spent through January.
- **BACWA Announcements:** For the PFAS Regional Study, the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Phase 2 is nearly complete. Sampling will occur in late March through May. The BACWA-sponsored [Bruce Wolfe scholarship](#) is now open to applicants – please spread the word!
- **Pesticides:** The pesticides subcommittee recently met with representatives from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). DPR provided updates on modeling of pesticide dilution in surface waters (results to be available this spring), and upcoming plans for sampling of wastewater and individual sources (such as pet washes). BACWA is working with the American Veterinary Medical Association on a survey of veterinarians regarding flea and tick control.
- **CWEA.** Two CWEA conferences are coming up. [The Annual conference](#) will be held April 11-14 in Sacramento. [The P3S conference](#) has been rescheduled for June 21-June 23 in Long Beach.
- **Legislation:** There is a federal bill ([HR 6591](#)) making AB818 “do not flush” labeling a national standard. There is a state bill ([AB 1817](#)) banning PFAS in textiles.

4. Our Water, Our World – Public Outreach & Education Program

Suzanne Bontempo, Program coordinator for Our Water, Our World (OWOW), provided a presentation on OWOW’s point of purchase public outreach and education programs. The slides are available on the [BACWA website](#). Her presentation covered:

- OWOW works with about 200 retailers (Home Depot being the largest) to provide customer education regarding eco-friendly pest control options. Recently the retail environment is extremely stressed due to supply chain and labor issues, so OWOW is also providing customer education *before* shoppers go to the store. OWOW is always cultivating new retail partners to expand the program.

- OWOW provides several kinds of labeling for eco-friendly products, including shelf labeling and flyers. In 2022, OWOW is rolling out posters with trackable QR codes to supplement or replace flyers, depending on retailer preference.
 - OWOW provides training for retail associates on how to answer customer questions about eco-friendly pest control. They also provide a newsletter for retailers, and have recently created a video training option for retail associates.
 - OWOW is now being managed through CASQA, and the transition will take some time to complete. If more sponsorships become available, they will be able to expand the program. OWOW has started to offer educational webinars for home gardeners. They have proven very popular during the pandemic. If you would like to be notified of upcoming OWOW training events happening within your County so that you can conduct outreach within your community, send an email to [Suzanne Bontempo](mailto:Suzanne.Bontempo) with your name, Agency affiliation, and county so she can add you to the notification list.
5. **Next meeting** – April 6, 2022, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom. Meetings may return to in-person later in 2022, but remote participation will still be an option.