



July 6, 2022

James Parrish
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

VIA EMAIL: James.Parrish@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: 2022 Nutrient Watershed Permit - Special Studies Status Report

Dear James Parrish,

On behalf of BACWA's member agencies covered by the Nutrient Watershed Permit (R2-2019-017), BACWA is pleased to submit this 2022 status update on our work to perform 1) the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems; and 2) the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Water Recycling. This update is required by the Nutrient Watershed Permit Provisions VI.C.2.c and VI.C.3.c.

Following the submission of the two Scoping and Evaluation Plans in December 2019, BACWA has worked with its consulting teams to make significant progress on both of the Special Studies. The teams working on the two projects are collaborating to ensure that their work products will be comparable to one another as well as to the data provided in the Optimization and Upgrade Report submitted in compliance with the first Watershed Permit.

For the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems, the team has completed the following tasks:

- Performed outreach to all of the region's wastewater agencies to refine the desk-based report released in early-2021: *Nature-based Solutions for Nutrient Removal: Opportunities and Constraints Analysis*.
- Performed site inspections and interviews with staff at eight (8) Bay Area water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs).
- Completed site-specific reports identifying nature-based solutions (NbS) alternatives for two (2) WRRFs. An additional six (6) reports are in draft form.
- Gave periodic presentations to BACWA representatives and stakeholders representing other projects intending to advance NbS for shoreline resiliency and pollution reduction in the region. Such projects include the Bay Area One Water Network (BAOWN), a ReNUWiT initiative.
- Conducted on-going efforts involving convening or participating in meetings to encourage coordination among projects aligned to the NbS project, including BAOWN, Transforming

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Shorelines, Bay Adapt, and project-specific actions involving effort to address obstacles to NbS implementation and management.

For the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Water Recycling, the team has completed the following tasks:

- Drafted approximately half of the individual plant reports. Each plant report (about 20-25 pages) has a similar layout as the 1st Watershed Permit with an Executive Summary Table/Brief Write-Up, Intro, Methods, and Results/Discussion
- Compiled recycled water data including projections in flows/nutrient loads through 2045. The data will be refined as plants review their plant reports.
- Included recycled water data in the 2022 Group Annual Report submission.

The Final Report will have a similar layout to the first Watershed Permit Optimization and Upgrade Report, in that it will include a main body that summarizes and synthesizes the individual agency reports. The individual agency reports will be included as appendices.

BACWA anticipates submitting the Final Reports for the two Special Studies in advance of the July 1, 2023 deadline.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Lorien Fono

Executive Director
Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

cc: BACWA Board
BACWA Watershed Permit Points of Contact
Tom Mumley, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Robert Schlipf, Regional Water Quality Control Board