



# Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Meeting Notes

August 3, 2022, 10 am

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## 1. Introductions

There were 37 attendees representing 26 Northern California wastewater agencies, including three invited guests: Diana Lin (SFEI), Nanami Yoshimura (SGA) and Tammy Qualls (Qualls Environmental). Several attendees noted job opportunities in pollution prevention and related fields, including the [City of Sunnyvale](#), [Central San](#), [City of San Leandro](#), and the [Regional Water Board](#).

## 2. Regional Board Announcements

Jessica Watkins from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board announced that the Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award will go this year to [SF Environment](#) for their PFAS-related work over the last few years. These efforts have included legislation banning PFAS in takeout food containers, setting standards for compostables, working to eliminate PFAS from fire-fighting foam, setting City purchasing standards for PFAS-free carpet, and more. The award will tentatively be given out at the September Regional Water Board meeting, depending on the recipient's availability.

## 3. Updates

- **Steering Committee** Joe Neugebauer reported that 97% of budget was used in FY22. Steering committee members recently met with Karen Cowan of CASQA to discuss OWOW (now run by [CASQA](#)) and general pesticides-related coordination. BAPPG representatives will be added to the OWOW distribution list for review of future fact sheets. The pesticides subcommittee meets monthly, is open to all interested BAPPG members, and will handle future discussion of OWOW.
- **BACWA Announcements:** BAPPG's pesticides regulatory support team plans to present to the BACWA Executive Board at the November 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting.
- **CWEA.** The P3S Conference will be held in the Monterey area from Jan 30 – Feb 1, 2023. The CWEA P3S committee also plans to start toolbelt trainings soon.

The main agenda item for this meeting was pollutant prioritization for FY23-24. Several presentations were provided to queue up the discussion.

## 4. Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in San Francisco Bay

Diana Lin from SFEI provided a presentation on the Regional Monitoring Program's process for prioritizing CECs for San Francisco Bay. The full presentation is available on the [BACWA website](#). There are currently no CECs of "high concern," but there are several CECs in the "moderate concern" category:

- PFAS
- Alkylphenols and Alkylphenol Ethoxylates
- Fipronil, Imidacloprid (pesticides)
- Bisphenols
- Organophosphate Esters

- Microplastics

Dr. Lin provided details about the monitoring strategy in San Francisco Bay for each of these pollutants. For PFAS, this work includes evaluating trends in water and sediment, a new study being launched to look at PFAS in marine mammals, and the BACWA-funded study of PFAS in wastewater (see [BACWA PFAS library](#) for the study plan). For microplastics, dryers are being investigated as a potential source of fibers through the stormwater pathway. Dr. Lin also provided information about a new possible concern: Quaternary Ammonium Compound (QACs), which are found in many household products. SF Approved has a [safer disinfectant guide](#) to avoid QACs. SFEI is also working on a study of sunscreen chemicals (oxybenzone, avobenzone, octisalate, and degradation products) that will include wastewater sampling at BACWA member agencies. These chemicals are not yet ranked because they have not been measured in the Bay.

## 5. Advertising Campaign Update

Nanami Yoshimura from SGA provided an update on the performance of last year’s advertising campaigns on FOG (fall) and pesticides (spring). She recommended that future advertising campaigns may want to consider including information in other languages (especially Spanish), and that BAPPG consider using native ads and advertising on TikTok (which requires video content). Personalized ads performed better, which may be the reason that the NextDoor advertising campaign did not perform well – the ads were more generic on that platform. SGA could create a social media toolkit for BAPPG, if requested.

## 6. Pestie Factsheet

Tammy Qualls provided background on a [fact sheet](#) about a growing internet subscription-based pesticide company called [PESTIE](#). There is concern about the company’s instructions regarding application of their product, including a suggestion to mix pesticides in the sink. By contrast, competitor [Sunday](#) emphasizes more eco-friendly messaging. The next step is for the Pesticides regulatory support team to continue outreach to CA DPR on this issue.

## 7. Pollutant Prioritization for FY24

In Zoom breakout rooms, member agency representatives shared highest-priority pollutants for their respective agencies, and brainstormed the following list of pollutants of concern: FOG, PFAS, microplastics, trash (including wipes and feminine products), pesticides, and pharmaceuticals. The meeting broke into groups to discuss each of these questions for the pollutants of concern:

- 1) What is the risk to WWTP, Staff, or the Environment?
- 2) What is the Pollution Prevention action we are seeking?
- 3) Is this a pollutant that would benefit from a regional effort?
- 4) Is the action in the Science, Regulatory, or Outreach category?

Based on member votes, the final prioritized list is:

- **PFAS** (8 votes): Focus will be on continued research (Phase 2 of PFAS Regional Study), developing informational materials, and exploring policy or regulatory action to enable future source control efforts.
- **Toilets aren’t Trash Cans** (7 votes): Wipes and other trash, including feminine products.

- **FOG** (4 votes): Continues to be important due to the nexus with sewer overflows. Outreach to commercial users (such as restaurants) is particularly important, as these tend to be the main source of grease.
- **Pesticides** (4 votes): Flea and tick pesticides are an important component of pesticides messaging.
- **Pharmaceuticals** (1 vote): Messaging is often different for pharmaceuticals than for trash, so it is listed separately.

**8. Next meeting** – October 5th, 2022, 10am – 12pm, Location TBD