

# YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023



**B A C W A**  
**B A Y A R E A**  
**C L E A N W A T E R**  
**A G E N C I E S**

Annual Meeting

May 5, 2023



# Summer 2022

## San Francisco Chronicle

Poop and pee fueled the huge algae bloom in San Francisco Bay. Fixing the problem could cost \$14 billion



# Winter 2022/23

## San Francisco Chronicle

'Don't jump in puddles': Sewage is overflowing into San Francisco Bay and city streets during storms





# BACWA's Mission

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To provide an effective regional voice for clean water agencies' stewardship of the San Francisco Bay's ecological, community, and economic resources.



# What was new in Fiscal Year 2023

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## Public Education and Communication:

- New communication initiative for regional POTW issues
- Outreach and education on regional issues
- Incident response

## Focus on DEIJ:

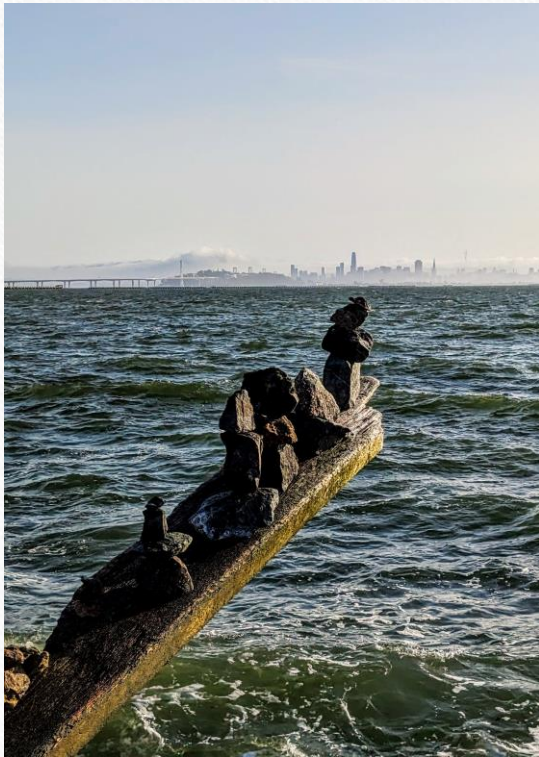
- March 7 wastewater equity kickoff workshop





# Membership Services

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- Committee activities and email lists
- BACWA Bulletin
- NPDES compliance reporting
- Opportunities for discussion of key Issues
- Managers Roundtable
- Support for member fundraising
- ELAP training
- Support for Projects of Special Benefit: BABC, BACC, and BACWWE

# Regulatory Engagement



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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	9

## KEY REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY Updated May 2, 2023

Action items for member agencies are in **bold**

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New updates in this version are shown in Purple highlighting

Background Highlights	Challenges and Recent Updates	Next Steps for BACWA	Links/Resources
<b>NUTRIENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Francisco Bay receives some of the highest nitrogen loads among estuaries worldwide, yet has not historically experienced the water quality problems typical of other nutrient-enriched estuaries. It is not known whether this level of nitrogen loading, which will continue to increase in proportion to human population increase, is sustainable over the long term.</li> <li>Because of the complexity of the science behind nutrient impacts in SF Bay, stakeholders in the region are participating in the Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) steering committee to prioritize scientific studies and ensure that all science to be used for policy decisions is conducted under one umbrella.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For FY23, BACWA is contributing \$1.8M to fund scientific research needed to make management decisions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Watershed Permit. This funding is required by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Watershed Permit.</li> <li>The focus of current scientific efforts is improving model representation of biogeochemistry, light attenuation, dissolved oxygen, and Harmful Algal Bloom dynamics. Field and lab observations are supporting these improvements.</li> <li>The science team is developing an Assessment Framework for Open Bay habitats and Lower South Bay sloughs.</li> <li>In summer 2022, a harmful algae bloom in San Francisco Bay brought increased public attention to this topic. The NMS science team is assisting with data interpretation, and has revised the science plan accordingly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Continue to participate in NMS steering committee, Nutrient Technical Workgroup, and planning subcommittee meetings, and provide funding for scientific studies.</b></li> <li><b>Working with NMS stakeholders, identify preliminary scenarios for nutrient modeling of the Bay.</b></li> <li>Continue to assist with preparation of a brief "State of the Science" document summarizing the scientific accomplishments of the NMS team for public use.</li> <li>Continue to engage with Nutrient Technical Team and BACWA's Nutrient Management Strategy technical consultant, Mike Connor, to provide review of recent work products and charge questions for the science team.</li> </ul>	<p>BACWA Nutrients Page: <a href="https://bacwa.org/nutrients/">https://bacwa.org/nutrients/</a></p> <p>NMS FY23 Program Plan (Revised Dec. 2022) <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/11WtdMpUw_OBQ6L_Iq67sOLw490k_RWW431e9nuU/">https://docs.google.com/document/d/11WtdMpUw_OBQ6L_Iq67sOLw490k_RWW431e9nuU/</a></p> <p>NMS Work Products <a href="https://sfbaynutrients.sfei.org/books/reports-and-work-products">https://sfbaynutrients.sfei.org/books/reports-and-work-products</a></p> <p>SFEI Presentation on Science of 2022 Bloom <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1R468fPMfg1d1xY6_cHFU-ula9aMCymx5/">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1R468fPMfg1d1xY6_cHFU-ula9aMCymx5/</a></p> <p>BACWA Nutrient FAQ <a href="https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BACWA-Nutrient-Fact-Sheet.pdf">https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BACWA-Nutrient-Fact-Sheet.pdf</a></p>

- Air Regulations
- PFAS
- Nutrients
- SSS WDR
- Toxicity Provisions
- Pesticides
- Chlorine residual permit amendment



# Collaboration

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- Representation at state and national associations
- Representation on key regional efforts and issues
- Bay Area scientific investigations
- Mercury and PCB risk reduction
- Bruce Wolfe memorial scholarship



# Look ahead to Fiscal Year 2023/24

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- Negotiating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nutrient Watershed Permit
- Establishment of equity community of practice
- Kickoff of BACWA communications initiative
- Engagement with water agencies on recycling
- Engagement with flood control agencies on extreme precipitation
- Special Programing ideas:
  - Nutrient technology workshops
  - Funding workshop
  - Climate change adaptation infoshare



# Get involved!

## Contact Us

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