

**Committee Request for Board Action:** None

34 attendees (all participating remotely) representing 24 member agencies and the Regional Water Board, plus three guest speakers

***Updates on Committee Activity and Announcements***

- **Regional Water Board Announcements:** The Regional Water Board has compiled nominations for the 2023 Dr. Teng-Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award. The winner will be presented at its November meeting.
- **Pesticides Subcommittee:** In July, BAPPG representatives met with USEPA to discuss urban pesticide use in the context of pesticide registration reviews. USEPA recommended that BAPPG focus on possible mitigation measures for the down-the-drain pathway and engaging early in the review process.
- **Budget.** Contracts are in place for the FY24 fiscal year.
- **Outreach / Marketing:** Co-Chair Robert Wilson is working with SGA to develop messaging for the fall campaign, which will tentatively tailor the "Toilets Aren't Trash Cans" message for the upcoming flu and cold season. Members noted that offering free flyers for multi-family units has been popular.
- **BACWA Announcements:** An algae bloom is recurring in San Francisco Bay (see [BACWA website](#) and [Regional Water Board FAQ](#)). Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study will be presented at the RMP Annual Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> in Berkeley. BACWA is developing a public-facing communications plan, which will be shared soon. [Direct Potable Reuse](#) regulations are now available for review. Hg and PCB loading trends are summarized in the [July 2023 Executive Officer's report](#) and are consistent with past loads.
- **CWEA:** Abstracts for the Annual Conference are due August 18th.

***Presentations on Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QACs)***

Three speakers presented on Quaternary Ammonia Compounds (QACs), a class of chemicals that are commonly used in industrial, agricultural, and consumer products. Use of these chemicals has recently increased because they have antimicrobial properties and are USEPA-approved disinfectants against COVID. Usage has also increased after triclosan was banned in hand soaps.

- Miguel Méndez from San Francisco Estuary Institute presented on [QACs in San Francisco Bay](#), including levels in surface sediments and sediment cores. Sediment cores suggest that QAC levels may have decreased since the 1970s, possibly due to changes in consumer products and/or wastewater treatment. SFEI completed a study of QACs at three Bay Area wastewater treatment plants. The QACs detected in the highest concentrations in influent are those used in disinfectants. Typical influent concentrations were less than 0.1 mg/L. Most of the influent QACs (>97%) are removed during wastewater treatment. QACs are also found in biosolids. SFEI plans additional work on Bay water and stormwater in the upcoming year.
- Chris Lehman (City of San Luis Obispo) and Mike Falk (HDR) presented on an unprecedented plant [upset and interference event at the San Luis Obispo Water Resource Recovery Facility](#) in September 2020 that was caused by QACs. QACs are harmful to nitrifying bacteria, and the facility's ability to nitrify was compromised for approximately a month until operators could determine the source of the problem and correct it. QACs can harm cBOD removal at concentrations of about 10-30 mg/L, but they can harm nitrification at concentrations of 2-5 mg/L. San Luis Obispo observed total QACs in the range of 10 mg/L in plant influent (e.g., much higher than those observed in SFEI's study). The interference was resolved using NeutraQuat, a chemical that can be added to bind QACs.

References mentioned during the discussion include the [San Francisco Safer Disinfectants list](#); resources from [Biomonitoring California](#); and a recent ES&T paper by Arnold et al. (May 2023) [QACs: A Chemical Class of Emerging Concern](#).

**Next BAPPG General Meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10am – 12pm**, In-Person at the Regional Water Board Offices in Downtown Oakland (1515 Clay St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 11). This meeting will featuring our Annual Pollutant Prioritization discussion. See you there!