

**Special Joint Meeting:** 40 attendees via Zoom and in-person, representing 20 member agencies

**Recruitment for Vice Chair.** Meg Herston has volunteered to serve as vice chair for the Permits committee. The Lab committee is looking for a volunteer to begin as vice-chair in summer 2024.

#### **Regulatory Updates**

- An NPDES Corrections [Basin Plan Amendment](#) to better accommodate water recycling projects was adopted by the Regional Water Board on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Basin Plan Amendment must be approved by the State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law, and USEPA before it becomes effective, which will likely occur no sooner than Fall 2024.
- A [Tentative Order for 27 landfills](#) requires planning for sea level rise. Comments are due 1/8/24.
- CASA held a webinar on the *Ceriodaphnia dubia* study completed by SCCWRP. The [final report](#) contains “must do” and “should do” recommendations. Dischargers using *C. dubia* for chronic toxicity testing (either in a screening study or for routine testing) should be familiar with the report’s findings.
- The State Water Board recently updated its [Water Quality Enforcement Policy](#), which becomes effective 4/1/24. The updated policy will change how the “Degree of Culpability” is assessed. Dischargers should check their permits regarding requirements to retain physical records on-site, as this will no longer be considered a “minor” violation.
- BACWA is working on a PFAS Fact Sheet, which will summarize and supplement the regional study report that is nearly final. A draft Fact Sheet will be shared for committee review before finalization.
- An administrative draft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nutrient Watershed Permit is expected in late January. Members are invited to join the Nutrient Strategy Team meetings coming up in December and January.
- BACWA is forming a community of practice for Climate Change. Contact [Mary Cousins](#) to join.

#### **Chlorine Blanket Permit Amendment**

The blanket permit amendment for residual chlorine was adopted in November ([R2-2023-0023](#)) and becomes effective on 1/1/24. Water Boards staff plan to update DMRs before the first batch of monitoring data is due (1/31/24); if this does not occur, BACWA will seek additional reporting guidance for members. BACWA shared a draft guidance document with committee members ahead of the meeting, and members provided additional input. Suggested additions included:

- Handling situations where the maximum chlorine residual for the day represents fewer than 24 hourly average values because there were fewer than 24 hours of discharge;
- Note that rounding rules also apply to SCADA, not just reporting;
- Handling averaging in situations where the ML may be less than 0.05 mg/L;
- More detailed suggestions about procedures for calibrating chlorine equipment and determining the ML.

#### **ELAP Updates** - Blake Brown shared several clarifications recently received from ELAP staff ([see slides](#)):

- Technical managers can sign all three certifying signatures on ELAP applications. If there is a change in your technical manager, [fill out this ELAP form](#).
- For the DMR-QA, ELAP does not require Proficiency Testing (PT) data for analyses that are not reported under the NPDES permit, or for auxiliary tests relevant to toxicity testing (e.g., hardness). They do want PT data for analyses related to sanitary sewer spills and recycled water (E. coli, total coliform).
- If you are turning in long reports from contract labs, ELAP suggests including the entire report and providing information about which pages are relevant. It is also acceptable to turn in only part of the report as long as all of the relevant information is included.

#### **TNI Updates**

The next TNI training session will be on February 20, 2024 (the December 19<sup>th</sup> session was cancelled). Members should send questions directly to [Diane Lawver](#). DSRSD recently had a TNI audit, and Kristy Fournier will share the findings at the next committee meeting.

**Future Meeting Topics** – Potential future meeting topics include managing the process of conducting a chronic toxicity screening study, and interpreting contract laboratory reports for PCBs.

**Next Lab Committee Mtg:** February 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM    **Next Permits Committee Mtg:** February 27<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM