YEAR IN REVIEW

2023-2024



Annual Meeting May 3, 2024

BACWA's Mission

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 2024 – Recycled Water Workshop





What was new in Fiscal Year 2024 – Value of Wastewater Campaign

Wastewater Treatment

When you flush a toilet, wash dishes, or take a shower, that water flows through sewers to a wastewater treatment facility where it is cleaned before entering the Bay. Clean water agencies operate more than 16,000 miles of sewers and over forty wastewater treatment facilities that collect and clean billions of gallons of water per year. This work is crucial to protecting the health of the Bay.

You can help: Don't flush unused medications - find a collection location near you. Avoid sewer backups – keep cooking oil out of the kitchen drain, and don't be deceived by so-called flushable wipes that don't break down like toilet paper.

Remember, only the 3 Ps down the toilet - poop, (toilet) paper, and pee!

Learn more at BayWise.org.



Protecting the San Francisco Bay environment bacwa.org

What was new in Fiscal Year 2024 – Public Outreach on Nutrients



Tightened wastewater regulations could cost Bay Area cities billions

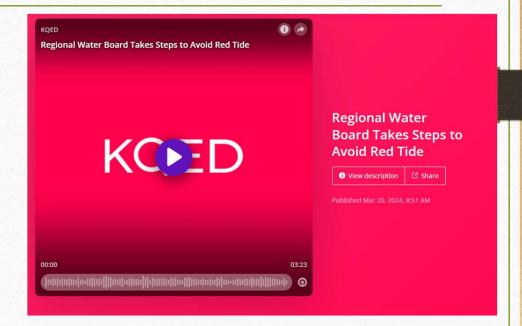
Regulator expected to rule this spring on tougher discharge requirements



Regional Water Quality Control Plant manager Jamie Allen looks over an empty waste water tank being remodeled on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Palo Alto, Calif. The plant is undergoing a \$369 million upgrade project. (Ari

By RYAN MACASERO | March 26, 2024

At least \$11 billion would be needed to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities across the Bay Area if regulators impose anticipated stricter environmental rules, according to a regional water board that seeks to protect the San Francisco Bay.



Membership Services



- Committee activities and email lists
- BACWA Bulletin
- NPDES compliance reporting
- Opportunities for discussion of key issues
- Managers Roundtable
- Support for member fundraising
- Training on technical topics
- Support for Projects of Special Benefit: BABC, BACC, and BACWWE

Regulatory Engagement



Contents

Nutrients in San Francisco Bay SF Bay Nutrient Watershed Permit Chlorine Residual Compliance Pesticides Mercury and PCBs State Water Board Toxicity Provisions Compounds of Emerging Concern (CECs)

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

KEY REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY Updated May 3, 2024

Action items for member agencies are in bold

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New updates in this version are shown in Purple highlighting Next Steps for BACWA

Challenges and Recent Updates

Background Highlights NUTRIENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

- 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
- 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
- For FY24, BACWA is contributing \$1.8M to fund scientific research needed to make management decisions for the 3rd Watershed Permit. This payment completes the science funding requirement in the 2nd Watershed Permit.
- The focus of current scientific efforts is improving model representation of biogeochemistry, light attenuation, dissolved oxygen, and harmful algal bloom dynamics.
- The science team is also developing an Assessment Framework for Open Bay habitats and Lower South Bay sloughs.

 • In summer 2022, a harmful algae
- bloom in San Francisco Bay brought increased public attention to this topic. A smaller bloom recurred in summer 2023. In both cases, the NMS science team modified the science plan to conduct monitoring and assist with data interpretation
- Continue to participate in NMS steering committee, Nutrient Technical Workgroup, and planning subcommittee meetings, and provide funding for scientific studies.
- . Continue to work with NMS scientists to obtain summaries of scientific accomplishments for
- 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.

Links/Resources

NMS FY24 Science Program

Plan Materials https://drive.google.com/drive/fol ders/16H sQ8AuogHv-eo9QZx2A9Ph9MTecq5j?usp=dr

NMS Work Products https://sfbaynutrients.sfei.org/books/reports-and-work-products

BACWA Nutrient Infographic

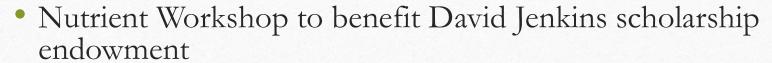
https://bacwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BACW

BACWA Nutrients Page:

- Nutrients
- Chlorine residual
- Mercury and PCB Watershed Permit Compliance
- Toxicity
- **CECs** and Microplastics
- SSS WDR
- ELAP
- Air Issues
- **Biosolids**
- Climate Change
- Recycled Water

Collaboration

- 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 2024/25



- Complying the 3rd Nutrient Watershed Permit
- Establishment of climate change community of practice
- Building BACWA communications initiative
- Recycled Water
 - Engagement with water agencies on recycling
 - RO Concentrate management
- Workforce development
- Biosolids reboot

Get involved!Contact Us



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