

Committee Request for Board Action: None

Regular meeting: 38 attendees via Zoom, including representatives from 26 laboratories

Chronic Toxicity Species Sensitivity Screening

The committee chair led a panel discussion on best practices for conducting chronic toxicity species sensitivity screenings per the new [statewide toxicity policy](#) requirements that are now appearing in reissued NPDES permits in the Bay Area. The slides are [posted here](#). Some of the key takeaways from the discussion included:

- The agency's role in developing the screening study plan is mainly to review the list of proposed species and the proposed dilution series. The study plan should only include species that are appropriate for routine testing based on your agency's water quality (salinity, ammonia) and your receiving water (marine, estuarine, or freshwater).
- Specimen availability is a recurring concern. The Regional Water Board has allowed several dischargers to substitute a Tier 2 marine fish species (*Menidia*) for the only Tier 1 marine fish species (topsmelt). Red Abalone also has availability issues, but there are two other Tier 1 marine invertebrate tests that can be used (purple urchin/sand dollar, and mussels/oysters). The study plan should specify a backup species if availability is an issue.
- For the dilution series, include both the instream waste concentration and, for deep water dischargers, the surveillance monitoring concentration (10%).

ICP Training Opportunity

Dan Jackson shared that he has requested a quote for Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) data integrity training. A2LA provided a quote of \$3,000 for up to 15 participants (\$200/person). Labs that are interested in participating should contact [Dan Jackson](#).

USEPA Method Update Rule (MUR)

USEPA has promulgated a final [Methods Update Rule](#) for 2023. Ten volunteers responded to the committee chair's request for volunteers to create a side by side comparison of the final version.

TNI and Laboratory Accreditation Updates:

- NapaSan shared findings from a recent ELAP audit of their laboratory. One of the outcomes was that all of their Class A plasticware had to be replaced with actual glassware. Other attendees reported that their labs were able to continue using plasticware by maintaining certificates that state its tolerance is the same (or better than) as Class A. Additionally, attendees shared TNI guidance to check accuracy on a quarterly basis for non-Class A glassware.
- The last BACWA TNI training sessions will be held Tuesday, June 18th. For the last session, Diane has requested that members share what has worked well for them in adapting to TNI and surviving audits.

BACWA Updates:

- PFAS Updates – USEPA has finalized [Drinking Water Limits](#), plans an [Influent Study of POTWs](#), and has designated PFOA and PFOS as [hazardous substances under CERCLA](#).
- Nutrient Watershed Permit – the [Draft Permit](#) now available, comments are due in early May, and the adoption hearing June 12th.
- ELAP Fee Structure Update – ELAP is still planning to make changes to its fee structure, which will likely be based on the number of FOAs.
- The [Regional Monitoring Program's](#) Emerging Contaminants Workgroup is planning several studies wastewater in 2025, including QACs and plastic additives. These studies are funded by BACWA members through the Regional Monitoring Program.
- BACWA is continuing to work with members on a proposal to bring to Regional Water Board staff regarding modifications to PCB reporting.

Announcements and Member Discussion

- Attendees discussed best practices for disposal of non-reusable sample containers that were used to hold wastewater. The consensus was to dispose of any liquid contents, rinse the container, then dispose of it in the garbage. It should not contain free-flowing liquid.
- Congratulations to DSRSD's Heidi Birdsell for being named CWEA Laboratory Person of the Year! ([See video](#))
- The [ELAP Conference](#) will be held virtually May 28 and May 29.
- Brittany Rossi Worthen from the City of Petaluma has agreed to serve as incoming vice chair of the BACWA Lab Committee.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2024, on Microsoft Teams.

Note date change from June 11th.