

Committee Request for Board Action: None

Regular meeting: 36 attendees from 26 wastewater agencies and the Regional Water Board participated virtually.

Troubleshooting Ammonia Probes

Tiffany Ishaya (Laboratory QA Officer, Silicon Valley Clean Water) discussed her lab's investigation into potential causes of ammonia probe upward drift over the last few years ([link to presentation slides](#)). Although they continue to search for a permanent solution to the problem, some practices have temporarily or partially helped, such as using ionic strength adjuster, controlling temperature, reconditioning the electrode between samples, closely adhering to consistent procedures for all samples, frequently replacing the membrane cap with a pre-assembled unit, and thoroughly rinsing the electrode between samples. Other attendees shared that surfactants can damage the hydrophobic membrane; contracting out industrial samples could protect the membrane from damage.

Methods Update Rule 2023 Update

A group of committee volunteers is working to identify important changes to Standard Methods affected by the USEPA [Methods Update Rule 2023](#) and will report back to the committee at the October 22nd meeting. At the same meeting, John and Kathi Gumpfer (ChemVal) will provide a training session on updates to quality assurance requirements for Standard Methods.

Report-Out from Environmental Measurement Symposium

Heidi Birdsell (DSRSD) shared resources from the 2024 Environmental Measurement Symposium ([link to slides](#)), and suggested signing up for ELAP emails ([link](#)), signing up for TNI emails on standards development ([link](#)) and interpretations ([link](#)), reading and commenting on draft TNI content, collaborating with others, and automating as many TNI record-keeping tasks as possible. Next year's conference is August 4th – 8th in St. Louis ([more info](#)).

PCB Congener Reporting

A draft updated guidance document on PCB congener reporting was circulated with the agenda. Attendees discussed edits to the draft, and BACWA requested comments by Friday, August 23rd.

BACWA Updates:

The [Nutrient Watershed Permit](#) was adopted on July 10th, with an effective date of Oct. 1st. There have been only minor changes to monitoring. Check your agency's eligibility for the influent monitoring waiver for nitrate-nitrite (Table E-2). For most agencies, the monitoring frequency for total phosphorus has been reduced (Table E-4).

Other Agency Reports

City of Hayward and EBDA representatives shared that they received feedback during a recent Regional Water Board inspection regarding the requirement to collect influent and effluent compliance samples "on varying days selected at random" as required by Attachment G, Section 3.1.3.1.1. Attendees discussed strategies for complying with requirement while minimizing staff overtime. After the meeting, Regional Water Board staff provided additional guidance that overtime should not be required, requesting only that labs "Conduct sampling on varying days selected as randomly as possible (within the standard workdays of lab/operations staff and in a manner where the samples can also be analyzed during the staff's standard workdays)."

Announcements and Member Discussion

- CWEA Monterey Bay section training on [Advanced Laboratory Instrumentation](#) – Sept 10th
- BACWA [Nutrient Removal Workshop](#) - Thursday, August 29th

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 22nd, 10 AM on MS Teams (Note date change)