

Committee Request for Board Action: None

45 attendees participated remotely, including representatives from 19 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, the CWEA Lab Committee, and one guest speaker.

Quality Control Requirements for Standard Methods affected by the MUR

John Gumpfer from [ChemVal](#) presented on changes to the quality control sections of Standard Methods affected by the most recent [EPA Routine Methods Update Rule 2](#) (rMUR 2) promulgated in April 2024 (see [Federal Register reference](#), Footnote 84). The presentation focused on changes to Standard Methods (SM) sections [2020](#), [3020](#), [4020](#), and [5020](#). The presentation covered topics such as acceptance criteria for initial calibration, calibration verification, operational range, initial and ongoing demonstration of capability, analysis of reagent blanks and laboratory-fortified matrices, acceptance criteria for duplicate samples, and verification of MDLs and MRLs. ChemVal will follow up with more information about changes to microbiology methods (SM 9020, 9030, 9040, and 9050). For more information, see the [presentation slides](#) or [handout](#).

Changes to Standard Methods affected by the MUR

Kristy Fournier presented on changes to Standard Methods affected by rMUR 2. [40 CFR 136](#) specifies which edition of Standard Methods labs should use, and ELAP recommends using the most recent edition of quality control requirements. SM4500 H+ (pH) has numerous technical changes related to the apparatus, reference electrodes, temperature compensation, buffer preparation, buffer storage, reagents, and method procedures. SM2320 B (Alkalinity), SM2130 B (Turbidity), SM2510 B (Conductivity), SM2540 A (Solids), SM2540 B (Total solids), SM2540 C (TDS), SM2540 D (TSS), SM2540 E (Fixed and Vol. Solids), SM2540 F (Settleable solids), SM4500 CN⁻, SM4500 NH₃ D (Ammonia), and SM4500-O (DO) have numerous editorial changes. For more information, see the [presentation slides](#). The next EPA MUR is expected in late 2024.

BACWA Announcements

- BACWA has prepared a guidance document on [Sampling, Analysis, and Reporting Protocols for PCB Congeners](#) for compliance with the Hg & PCBs Watershed Permit (R2-2022-0038). After the meeting, the Regional Water Board provided [approval](#) for this updated protocol, which members should use in consultation with contract laboratories. The main change is the specification to report the MDL or Estimated Detection Limit, whichever is greater, when the analyte is not detected in the sample.
- Content from the [Regional Monitoring Program Annual Meeting](#) is now available. You can also order a copy of the 2024 [Pulse of the Bay](#), which focuses on emerging contaminants.

Discussion Topics

- **Flow-based compositing.** Members discussed flow compositing language in [Attachment G](#), which requires that the “proportion of each grab sample included in the composite sample shall be within ... (+/-5%) of the representative flow of the waste stream being measured at the time of grab sample collection.” The collective opinion was that periods with no flow are not included in the composite period, nor do they count towards the +/-5% deviation.
- **Chlorine Process Control plans / SOPs** – Make sure to follow manufacturer recommendations for calibrating online chlorine monitoring equipment. See [BACWA guidance document](#) on amended NPDES permit requirements for residual chlorine.
- **QA Audits** – Blake Brown recently collected QA Audit templates and will share them with the committee. Most followed the TNI format.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10th – 10:30 AM – 1 PM - Joint Meeting, Holiday Luncheon and Cookie Exchange with Lab Committee, In-Person at Dublin San Ramon Services District (Pleasanton). A tour will precede the meeting (tentative).