



BAY AREA POLLUTION PREVENTION GROUP

A Committee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Covering reporting period of 1/1/24 – 12/31/24

BAPPG Chair: Autumn Ross

BAPPG Co-Chair: Robert Wilson

BAPPG Vice Chair: Joe Neugebauer

Prepared by: Joe Neugebauer

Submitted to: Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

Date: February 4, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a subcommittee of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), is comprised of 44 Bay Area wastewater agencies that work together to coordinate pollution prevention activities and leverage resources for smaller agencies to reduce the amount of toxic pollutants discharged into the San Francisco Bay and local waterways. Wastewater agency representatives meet monthly to share information, leverage resources, and develop regional activities that help member agencies meet regulatory outreach requirements and BAPPG goals.

2024 COMMITTEE UPDATES

All files pertaining to BAPPG are being added to the BACWA BAPPG webpage (<https://bacwa.org/committees/bay-area-pollution-prevention-group/>). This includes meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports, presentations, and information on pollutants of concern.

2024-2025 BAPPG officers were selected:

- Chair – Autumn Ross, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Co-Chair – Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa
- Vice Chair – Joe Neugebauer, West County Wastewater

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

This report serves as an update to BACWA and member agencies for all BAPPG projects, by pollutant, which took place from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

1. COPPER
2. FATS OILS AND GREASE (FOG)
3. MERCURY AND SILVER
4. PESTICIDES
5. PHARMACEUTICALS
6. TRASH AND WIPES
7. PFAS AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (CECs)

The BAPPG-hosted website [Baywise.org](https://baywise.org) received a major design update in 2024, so links to many online resources have changed. For members' reference, this annual report includes updated links.

1. POLLUTANT: COPPER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Copper pipe corrosion has been a major concern to the wastewater community for more than a decade. For many years, the messages have focused on proper installation, including the use of a water-based flushable flux. In California, there are also alternatives to copper pipe for potable and non-potable installations, such as PEX. Further, copper is a pesticide used in swimming pools and spas and incorporated into fabrics.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Select only ASTM B813 water-flushable flux rather than petroleum-based flux (which is not flushable and increases pipe corrosion rates).

2. Incorporate additional BMPs during design, reaming, cleaning, and building commissioning that will reduce pipe corrosion rate.
3. Seek mitigation options for copper products that are used in swimming pools, spas, and fountain treatments (often drained to the sanitary sewer), as well as copper-treated fabrics that are subsequently laundered.

NEXT STEPS

Baywise.org has [resources for plumbers](#) that focus on the key messages above. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2, has confirmed that the outreach materials on Baywise.org are sufficient for copper education and outreach.

2. POLLUTANT: FATS, OILS AND GREASE

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

FOG is a top priority due to the associated regulatory and financial impacts on member agencies. FOG is a major problem for sewer systems, causing sewer back-ups, sewer overflows onto streets, and foul sewer odors. Because of this, cities often spend millions of dollars a year responding to grease-related sewer blockages and infrastructure improvements.

KEY MESSAGES

Don't pour grease down the drain – collect and recycle used cooking oil.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Outreach: Fats, Oils, & Grease	This year, BAPPG’s public outreach consultant, Sagent launched a fall FOG campaign in both English and Spanish. The purpose of the campaign was to continue educating Bay Area residents on proper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) by running a GIF as a digital display ad and Mobile Ad Messenger targeting cooking enthusiasts across all seven Bay Area counties in both English and Spanish. ViaMedia was the media partner for these digital advertisement placements.	November 11, 2024 – November 29, 2024	\$15,000

Results

ViaMedia Digital Ads:

- Impressions:
 - Total: 1,614,257
 - Mobile Ad Messenger (English): 465,406
 - Mobile Ad Messenger (Spanish): 283,145
 - Display (English): 567,999
 - Display (Spanish): 297,707
- Clicks:
 - Total: 24,628
 - Mobile Ad Messenger (English): 14,719
 - Mobile Ad Messenger (Spanish): 9,202
 - Display (English): 479

- Display (Spanish): 228
- Average cost per click = \$.61
- Average click through rate: 1.53%

MATERIALS (GIF images English and Spanish)

These images are also available for community use at <https://bacwa.org/bappg-fog/>.



Llena tu estómago



Baywise.org

no tu drenaje.



Baywise.org

**Evita tapones
en las tuberías.**



Baywise.org

**No eches grasa
por los desagües.**



Baywise.org

MATERIALS (downloadable “FOG Checklist”)

During 2022, SGA developed a custom downloadable FOG checklist for residents to print and use as a reminder to properly dispose of FOG (shown at right). It continues to be available on Baywise.org under the “FOG Checklist” button and is featured on the FOG landing page (<https://baywise.org/learning-center/what-to-do-with-cooking-grease-hint-it-cant-go-down-the-drain/>).

The list includes reminders for lesser-known FOGs such as dairy products like cheese and butter, shortening, meat fats, sauces, dressings, gravies, and icing.

KNOW YOUR FOGs

FATS • OILS • GREASES

Fats, oils, and greases, or FOGs, should never be drained in the sink because they can solidify and cause sewer backups into houses or streets, bringing with them health risks.



Did you know that FOGs include more than just cooking grease and frying oils? These are some of the less known FOGs that also need to be disposed of properly:

- **Dairy Products** (such as cheese and butter)
- **Shortening**
- **Meat Fats** (including bacon grease)
- **Sauces, dressings, and gravies**
- **Icing**

Make sure to dispose of these foods properly, by simply putting of them in your compost or trash bin instead of garbage disposal.



Or place them in a sealable container and discard them with your other garbage.



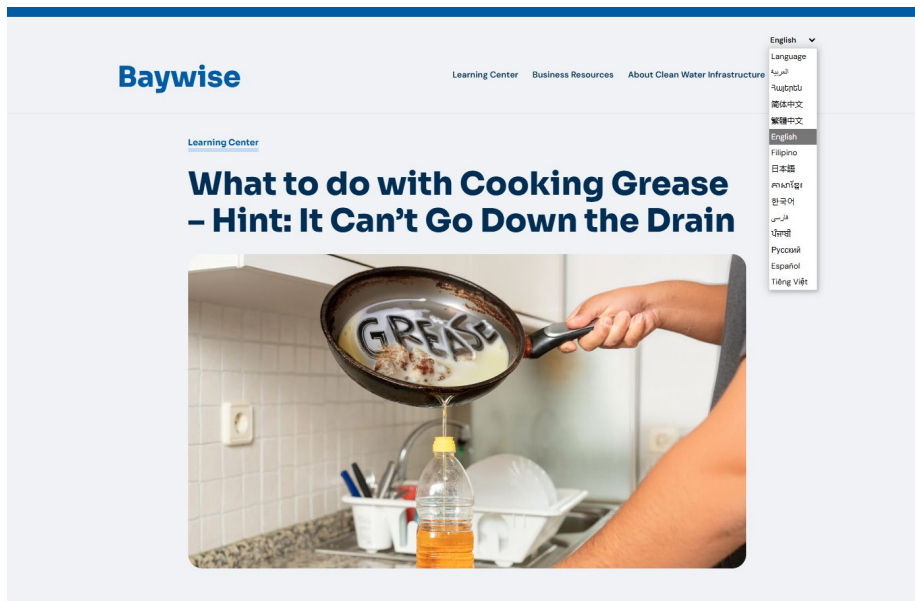
Dispose of FOGs properly to avoid costly pipe replacement and a greasy, smelly mess of pollutants entering your house or community!



Learn more tips about proper FOG disposal at BayWise.org/Residential/FOG



MATERIALS (Campaign landing page)



Baywise.org continued to offer Google translation plugin. The website is **available in 14 languages**, including the most popular languages like Spanish, Chinese (both Simplified & Traditional), and Vietnamese.

NEXT STEPS

Staff from member agencies and the BAPPG outreach consultant will continue to monitor and update Baywise.org with relevant information. BAPPG will evaluate whether a FOG campaign is needed in 2025.

3. POLLUTANT: MERCURY AND SILVER

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Outreach regarding best management practices for dental amalgam and silver fixer waste is essential to ensure member agencies continue to meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Dental amalgam and silver fixer wastes are hazardous and shall not be disposed in dental office sinks.
2. Incorporate BMPs for dental amalgam, silver fixer, and other hazardous wastes within a dental office.
3. The mandated use of BMPs and amalgam separators has significantly decreased the mercury loads into the sewer.
4. As of July 2017, the USEPA is mandating the installation of amalgam separators and the use of several key BMPs that were originally developed and piloted in the Bay Area.
5. Provide support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and legislation that limits or bans the sale of products that contain toxic pollutants when safer and effective alternatives are available.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Stephanie Hughes served as a guest speaker in dental assistant / hygienist classes in local colleges throughout the Bay Area.	Calendar Year 2024	\$3,000

Results

Reached approximately 150 students and instructors at the following in-person site visits:

- San Jose City College (2 visits)
- Foothill College, Los Altos
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- City College of San Francisco
- College of Marin, Novato

MATERIALS

Pollution prevention guidance for dental offices at <https://baywise.org/business-resources/pollution-prevention-guidance-for-dental-offices>

NEXT STEPS

Continue to provide a guest speaker to local colleges. The instructors have come to rely on these annual visits and have incorporated BAPPG’s program into their instructional calendar. Further, this is a relevant audience for other messages, such as wipes and pharmaceutical waste.

4. POLLUTANT: PESTICIDES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Indoor and outdoor application of pesticides can result in chemical runoff into the sewer systems and, due to low pollutant removal efficiencies at treatment plants, can lead to aquatic ecosystem degradation, as well as potential concerns with NPDES permit compliance, biosolids, and water reuse.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Promote integrated pest management and less-toxic products as alternatives to pesticides.
2. Seek alternatives to fipronil and imidacloprid and other topical (collar and spot-on) pet treatments (conducted alternative analysis, completed talking points for veterinarians and messages for general public).
3. Work with pesticide regulators to improve their ability to address down-the-drain pathways to wastewater treatment plants during pesticide registration, support their monitoring efforts, and implement mitigation when needed.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
OWOW	Our Water Our World (OWOW) is a state-wide outreach program that promotes the use of less-toxic pest control methods and products in the home and garden through local retailers.	Calendar Year 2024	\$10,000

Results

Annual Program Implementation July 2023 – June 2024

Retail Partnerships

- Maintained strong corporate partnership with Home Depot’s corporate office to facilitate statewide The Home Depot participation.
- Continued our seasonal e-Newsletter during Spring and Fall for retail staff to learn about current pest problems and eco-friendly solutions.

Retail Trainings

- 122 retail training conducted with 780 retail staff trained.

Direct to Consumer Outreach

- 211 public outreach events
- Approximately 84,743 people attended these outreach events (in person and virtually)
- 2,929 QR code scans from our QR code poster outreach product.

Trade Show Participation

- OWOW representatives attended the following trade shows to meet vendors and suppliers to learn about new products entering the California marketplace:
 - BFG Marketplace Expo, Reno NV
 - Northern California Home & Landscape Expo, Sacramento, CA
 - NorCal Landscape trade Show, San Mateo, CA

Program Development

- Four factsheets (Aphids, Spiders, Cockroaches, and Mosquitos) were updated for technical accuracy and translated to Spanish (completed December 2024).
- CASQA developed an OWOW Resources folder and hosted two In-Store Coordination Trainings to training and introduce municipal staff and contractors unfamiliar with the OWOW program on the retail store element.
- The OWOW website was updated to include a publicly available searchable database of all less-toxic pest products: <https://ourwaterourworld.org/pesticide-ingredients/>

Future Considerations

- Continue updating program factsheets to maintain technical accuracy and complete Spanish translations.
- To bring consistency to the OWOW program’s implementation, the *Implementing an IPM Partnership: A How-To Manual* dated March 2000, will be revised to describe current practices and responsibilities for OWOW subscribing agencies, IPM Advocates, and participating retailers. The primary goal of the Implementation and Guidance Handbook is to describe the core elements of local implementation, establish an annual reporting schedule, and provide consistency in retailer trainings, materials, displays, and communication.
- To operate at a statewide scale, and in a sustainable manner, certain aspects of the existing

OWOW program must be formalized and expanded. In 2022, CASQA began developing an outline for an IPM Advocate Training Program. As part of this initiative, CASQA intends to work with and potentially partner with Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). CASQA will coordinate workgroups comprised of OWOW Subscribers, current IPM Advocates, and training experts to develop a framework for the IPM Advocate Training Program.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Flea & Tick Outreach to Veterinarians and the Community	Evaluate flea products with regards to pathways to sewers. Develop and communicate recommendations for pet owners and veterinarians to reduce impact to sewers. Conduct trainings to veterinary students and professional associations.	Calendar Year 2024	\$14,500

Results

Veterinary Professionals

- As of January 2023, BACWA has been approved to provide 1.0 Continuing Education credits for both Veterinarians and Vet Techs for completing our course, “The Links Between Consumer Flea and Tick Control and Aquatic Toxicity.” BACWA has one approved instructor, Stephanie Hughes. All approvals are via RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) Standards for Approved Providers of Continuing Veterinary Medical Education. The approvals are valid for all 50 states.
- Continued communications with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
 - Attended the AVMA Conference in Austin, TX, giving a presentation and networking with veterinary specialists.
 - Learned that pet parasiticide manufacturers are moving from on-pet topicals to the chewables, because those products manage both ecto- and endo-parasites.
 - Made valuable connections with veterinary toxicologists
 - Communicated with a new member of the AVMA’s Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI) who is a veterinarian and a toxicologist at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.
 - Answered questions from veterinarians about fate and transport of pesticides indoors.
- Collaborated with the Veterinary Information Network (VIN)
 - With VIN’s assistance, prepared a detailed online survey that was completed by 637 US veterinarians, including 73 California vets.
 - 12% of US vets (and 18% of California vets) currently do not recommend either fipronil or imidacloprid to their clients
 - When presented with brief information (mid-survey) about aquatic toxicity concerns, an additional 60% of vets indicated they would be somewhat or very willing to consider changing their product recommendations.
 - When asked if barriers are in place that prevent them from removing fipronil and/or imidacloprid from their recommendations altogether, 40% of US vets and 46% of California vets, said yes. When asked to identify the barriers, overwhelmingly they said cost.

- Presented a one-hour VIN presentation in February 2024 (due to the Continuing Education accreditation and the communication with and education of the VIN survey staff)
- Used AVMA communications and VIN survey results to prepare a 10-page outreach workplan for BAPPG for 2025-2027.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking and Communications	<p>The BAPPG Pesticides Workgroup addresses pesticide pollution by engaging in pesticide registration reviews by both the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). These registration review process includes opportunities for public comment. Typical annual activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tracking and prioritizing USEPA and DPR re-registration reviews ● educating staff from DPR and USEPA about local pesticide pollution data and concerns; ● engaging in scientific and management conversations with USEPA and DPR regarding new scientific evidence linking pet flea control treatments and fipronil and imidacloprid in POTW effluent; and ● submitting comment letters during the pesticide re-registration process through BACWA 	Calendar Year 2024	\$64,000

Results

- With technical feedback from San Francisco Estuary Institute staff, updated the pesticide watch list to align with Regional Monitoring Program priorities and toxicity concerns for the Bay.
- Tracked pesticide-related regulatory activities by USEPA and DPR and new scientific information that have significant potential to affect BACWA member agencies. Notified BAPPG of such items as they arose. Provided a “crystal ball” near-term priorities tracking summary, updated monthly or bimonthly.
- On the basis of regulatory documents, relevant scientific information, and the regulatory context, made recommendations regarding regulatory participation or other follow-up steps on multiple USEPA and DPR actions.
- Met with DPR technical staff to obtain updates regarding their scientific studies and modeling updates.
- Continued communications with USEPA Region 9 to seek their support in communicating to USEPA headquarters the need to include indoor uses in ecological risk assessments.

Results

- Submitted comment letters to the USEPA which explained the pesticide transport route to the sanitary sewer and related scientific studies for priority pesticides:¹
 - submitted two letters regarding two priority pesticides with indoor uses and pathways to the sewer: neonicotinoids and 3-Iodo-2-propynyl butylcarbamate (IPBC);
 - submitted one letter describing our concerns and recommendations regarding their white paper describing the harmonization and digitization of pesticide labels;
 - submitted comments at EPA's public meeting to discuss the draft Strategy to Better Protect Endangered Species from Insecticides.
- Coordinated and provided scientific support for communications with USEPA and DPR about wastewater pesticides discharges, wastewater pesticides monitoring, and improving wastewater pesticides predictive modeling to support registration decisions. Continued semi-annual informal information-sharing teleconference meetings between BACWA's pesticide workgroup and DPR's wastewater experts.
- Submitted a letter to CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) with recommendations for and support of their 3-year workplan.
- Evaluated outcomes of BACWA input to USEPA and DPR and briefed BAPPG/BACWA pesticides leads on these outcomes to assess effectiveness of BACWA's work.
- Developed an agenda and materials for a monthly BACWA Pesticides Workgroup teleconference meeting to determine appropriate actions and to coordinate actions with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff. Provided staff support during the meetings and an action item list after each meeting.

MATERIALS

Pollution prevention guidance for veterinarians was updated in 2024 and is at <https://baywise.org/business-resources/pollution-prevention-guidance-for-veterinarians/>.

Pollution prevention guidance for pet owners was updated in 2024 is at <https://baywise.org/learning-center/protect-your-pets-your-family-and-the-bay/>.

Outreach materials for members' use in flea- and tick-related outreach to veterinarians and the public are available <https://bacwa.org/bappg-pesticides/flea-and-tick-outreach-toolkits/>.

NEXT STEPS

With regards to regulatory issues, the workgroup will continue to track and comment on the USEPA and DPR re-registration process. To enhance and expand communication and outreach at all levels, the Pesticides Workgroup developed a 4-part workplan for 2025 to 2027 which is represented by the graphic below. The workplan has been submitted to the full BAPPG committee for discussion at the first 2025 BAPPG meeting.

¹ The BACWA USEPA pesticide comment letters can be found at bacwa.org/document-category/comment-letters/.

A. Update Colleagues	B. Regulatory Communication	C. Communicate with Veterinary Leadership	D. Continued BAPPG Outreach
Educate wastewater colleagues on our outreach efforts to date, our findings from the veterinary community, and proposed next steps	<p>Focus on several branches of DPR and the DTSC Safer Consumer Products Program</p> <p>Discuss opportunities and challenges based on findings from the veterinary community</p> <p>Seek opportunities to collaborate and/or pilot projects</p>	<p>Engage with the Veterinary Leadership – Bay Area and nationally</p> <p>Focus on One Health, sustainability, vet toxicologists and vet parasitologists</p>	<p>Replicate Palo Alto’s municipal shelter outreach</p> <p>Reach out to local veterinary tech community colleges</p> <p>Media, ad, and online campaigns</p> <p>Reach out to Bay Area chains</p>

5. POLLUTANT: PHARMACEUTICALS

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Pharmaceuticals can enter waterways through improper disposal into wastewater streams (e.g., flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet). Pharmaceuticals can have endocrine-disrupting properties, and unintended exposure to pharmaceuticals by aquatic life and humans can lead to adverse health effects. Outreach surrounding safe disposal of pharmaceuticals is essential to ensure member agencies meet regulatory standards and prevent pollution of receiving waters. There is potential to combine water quality messaging with broader messaging surrounding health and safety to target wider audiences while still ensuring that safe disposal is the key takeaway.

KEY MESSAGES

1. No Drugs Down the Drain
2. Don’t Rush to Flush – Meds in the Bin, We All Win!
3. Prevent Accidental Poisoning, Drug Abuse, and Water Pollution by disposing medicines properly

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	Insights about proper pharmaceutical disposal included as part of dental waste discussion.	Calendar Year 2024	N/A*

**Included above with mercury and silver*

Results
Reached 150 dental trainees and instructors (per Mercury section).

MATERIALS



MED-Project
Medication Education & Disposal

What should you do with your unwanted and expired medication?
Enter your Zip Code to find safe disposal options near you

Zip Code

DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH
Promoting the proper disposal of unwanted medicines across the state of California.

Baywise.org continues to offer information on proper disposal of medications including links to the MED-project and Don't Rush to Flush program at <https://baywise.org/learning-center/safely-disposing-of-medication/>.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to include discussions about proper disposal of pharmaceutical wastes in the outreach to dental trainees and instructors. Continue to coordinate with the pesticides subcommittee regarding disposal of pet medicines.

6. POLLUTANT: TRASH AND WIPES

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

Trash is a top priority due to the improper disposal of non-woven wipes and other non-flushable trash items such as hair, ear swabs and all products claiming to be biodegradable or flushable. Most consumer wipes products (labeled flushable or not) take much more time to disperse in water than toilet paper, which has caused issues for many Bay Area wastewater systems, including damage to pumping station equipment, grinders and other infrastructure, stoppages, and sanitary sewer overflows. Wipes and other non-dispersibles are also a safety issue for pump station employees that have suffered needle sticks from “deragging” pumps clogged with wipes.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Wipes Clog Pipes!
2. Toilets Aren't Trashcans
3. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Earth Day 3Ps Video Ad Campaign	SGA ran a YouTube video ad campaign to educate residents in the Bay Area to only flush the “3Ps” in the toilet. The 3Ps video ran as advertisements on popular YouTube news and entertainment channels in both English and Spanish languages. Viewers were encouraged to click on the link to be directed to more information on Baywise.org.	April 22 – May 19, 2024	\$5,500

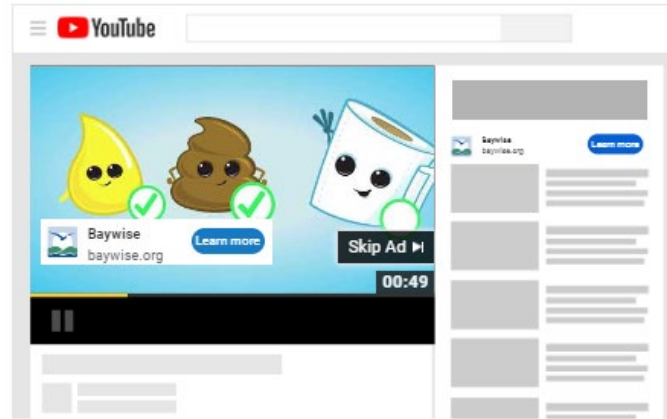
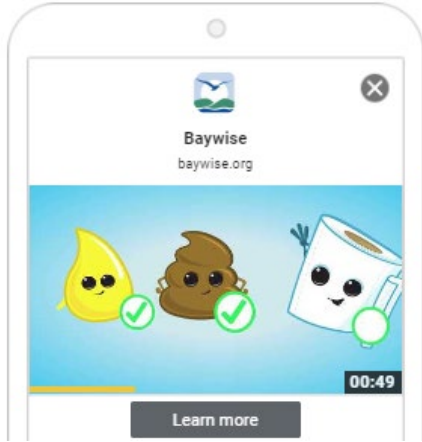
Results

YouTube Video Ads:

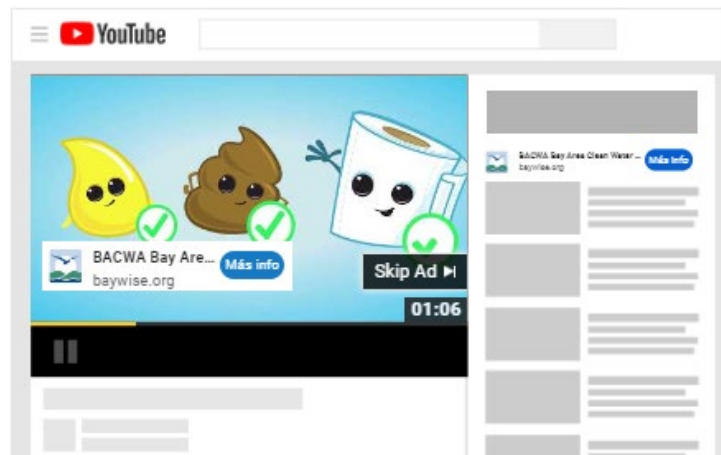
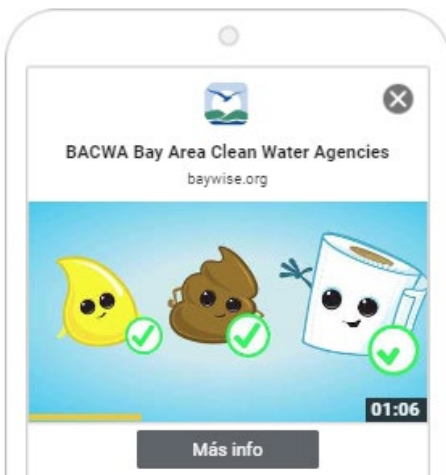
- Impressions:
 - Total: 810,525
 - English: 509,974
 - Spanish: 300,551
- Views:
 - Total: 454,243
 - English: 306,041
 - Spanish: 148,202
- Average watch time/impression:
 - Total: 39.9 seconds
 - English: 36.4 seconds
 - Spanish: 43.4 seconds
- Clicks:
 - Total: 553
 - English: 321
 - Spanish: 232
- Click through rate:
 - Total: 0.07%
 - English: 0.06%
 - Spanish: 0.08

MATERIALS (Youtube Ads assets)

English Ads



Spanish Ads



Links to the videos are available for member use at <https://youtu.be/YJH-xf4-MRk> (English), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m2INxu66wM> (Spanish) and can also be downloaded from <https://bacwa.org/toilets-arent-trashcans/>.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Dental Assistant / Hygienist Outreach	As part of the dental waste discussion, speaker includes insights about microbeads and “flushable” wipes. This audience is very receptive to all BAPPG messages. More than 95% female, they are typically the primary purchaser for their families and as medical professionals, they are concerned about health and water quality.	Calendar Year 2024	N/A*

**Included above with mercury and silver*

Results	
Reached 150 dental trainees and instructors (same audience reached as “Mercury” results above).	

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
NSAC	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses and consumers who advocate that producers fairly share responsibility to achieve a responsible, circular economy.	Calendar Year 2024	\$10,000

Results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National “WIPPES” Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modeled after California’s AB 818 (Bloom), which was co-sponsored by NSAC, the bicameral, bipartisan introduction of S 1350: Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act by Congressman Merkley (D-OR) and Congresswoman Collins (R-ME) and HR 2964: WIPPES Act by Congresswoman McClain (R-MI) and Congresswoman Peltola (D-AK) occurred on April 27, 2023. HR 2964 passed out of the House and was received in the Senate in June 2024. Unfortunately, the bill failed in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation when the session concluded on 1/3/205.SB 1350 failed to move since it was introduced on 4/27/2023. ○ Would have required the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring covered entities to label covered products clearly and conspicuously with “Do Not Flush” label notices & symbols. ○ NSAC is working on planning a webinar and lobby day for wipes in 2025 and are currently working with stakeholders regarding reintroduction of federal legislation in 2025. ● Collaboration with the Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RFA is an independent, nonprofit trade association committed to educating consumers about responsible and smart flushing habits, to reduce damage to our nation’s sewage systems, formed in response to AB 818's Consumer Education and Outreach Program requirements. AB 818 requires covered entities to “participate in a collection study conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies for the purpose of gaining understanding of consumer behavior regarding the flushing of premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes and to conduct a comprehensive multimedia education and outreach program in the state.” The Outreach Program 	

will continue until January 1, 2027.

- Collaboration with RFA and NSAC included promotion in NSAC’s newsletter and social media platforms of Flush Smart Day, a nationwide observance established via AB 818, to recognize every July 1st as an opportunity to educate the public on what not to flush.

NSAC was one of the key negotiators for the passage of CA’s packaging EPR law, [SB 54 \(Allen\): The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act](#) and hosts a Implementation Working Group with over 200 participants to discuss the regulatory development and proposed regulations and general implementation of SB 54 which meets no less than monthly.

NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to include messages about trash and wipes when meeting with medical, hospice, and dental professionals and trainees. BAPPG will distribute collateral during professional presentations and regional outreach events. BAPPG will also continue to support the NSAC as they continue to look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality.

7. POLLUTANT: PFAS & OTHER CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (CECs)

POLLUTANT DESCRIPTION

PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA, are a class of thousands of different compounds that are persistent, toxic, and bioaccumulative with multiple adverse effects on human health and the environment. People are exposed to them via household products such as food packaging, textiles, cosmetics, and personal care products. Results from a special study conducted by BACWA and the San Francisco Estuary Institute indicate PFAS concentrations in wastewater treatment plant influent, effluent, and biosolids. The final report was completed in December 2023 and found that PFAS in wastewater can be traced back primarily to residential sources, with limited additional inputs from commercial and industrial sources.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Support legislation banning and/or restricting the use of PFAS substances in household products.
2. Support legislation addressing other emerging contaminants of concern.

Project	Description	Timeline	Budget
Regulatory Tracking & Communication	The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) advocated for several Assembly bills regarding the manufacturing or sale of products containing PFAS in the State of California and microfiber filtration for washing machines.	Calendar Year 2024	N/A*

**Included above with trash and wipes*

Results

NSAC strongly supported and promoted bills in the CA Legislature that would ban the use of PFAS including:

- AB 2515 (Papan) for menstrual products
- AB 2408 (Haney) for firefighter personal protective equipment
- SB 903 (Skinner) non-essential uses
- AB 347 (Ting) which addresses the enforcement of existing PFAS bans.

NSAC sponsored two additional bills that would likely help improve Bay Area water quality:

- SB 1066 (Blakespear): Pyrotechnic distress flare EPR so boaters are not throwing marine flares containing perchlorate into the water due to lack of collection opportunities (only Alameda County accepts them from their residents year-round).

SB 1066 was vetoed by the Governor after passing out of the Legislature with only two no votes. NSAC is working with Senator Blakespear to reintroduce the legislation in 2025.

- SB 1143 (Allen): Household Hazardous Waste EPR bill to ensure all products that become household hazardous waste includes lifecycle costs in the product price and has a safe and convenient disposal plan that does not burden local governments with the costs.

SB 1143 was amended and narrowed to a PaintCare Expansion Act to include paints and paint products not already covered such as furniture and marine paints. NSAC is working with Senator Allen on the reintroduction of a HHW EPR bill in 2025 and NSAC is also working with CA cities and counties on the introduction of local ordinances.

MATERIALS

BAPPG members are currently developing public outreach materials related to PFAS for a future outreach campaign that will link to the Baywise website. Technical documentation related to PFAS is available at <https://bacwa.org/pfas-links/>.

NEXT STEPS

BAPPG will continue to support the NSAC as they look for opportunities to initiate and support legislation regarding extended producer responsibility for products containing pollutants that affect wastewater and stormwater quality. BAPPG will also continue to partner with BACWA, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Water Board, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to identify consumer products with PFAS that have a potential nexus to wastewater, stormwater, and surface waters like San Francisco Bay. BAPPG is planning a public outreach campaign on PFAS in spring 2025.