

Committee Request for Board Action: None

49 attendees participated remotely, including representatives from 30 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and one guest speaker.

Constant Temperature Monitoring

Kim Nguyen, Sr. Microbiologist at Valley Water, shared information about her agency’s experience piloting the use of temperature data loggers to comply with monitoring requirements for microbiological and chemical methods. Use of the data loggers was motivated by the desire to avoid having laboratory staff come in on weekends and holidays solely for temperature monitoring. The data loggers can send out automated alerts via text, email, or phone. The Valley Water lab tested the devices in freezers, incubators, ovens, refrigerators, and water baths. The devices did not work in the autoclave because they prevented proper sealing. Pilot monitoring showed how various locations (e.g., freezer or water baths) cycle through a set temperature range. The lab then had to determine acceptability criteria for interpreting the continuous data set (for example, acceptability criteria could be 30 min. out of a pre-determined range). Kim shared that the temperature data loggers seem to be useful for refrigerator and freezer monitoring. They are more challenging to use for recording temperature during sample analysis, and they also produce a large amount of data.

After Kim’s presentation, other members shared that data security was an obstacle, as agency rules may prohibit wireless data transfer for laboratory instruments. Hard-wired loggers are an option in this scenario. One member reported testing [this Autoclave temperature data logger](#).

Tips on ELAP Certification and Lab Construction

Kristy Fournier (DSRSD) shared tips from a recent interaction with ELAP regarding laboratory relocation. DSRSD’s facility is planning a construction project, and recently held a meeting with ELAP to present their plan for operating the laboratory and maintaining data quality during the construction period. ELAP staff advised DSRSD that they do not need an amendment application. Other BAWA members are encouraged to meet with ELAP as early as possible if they are planning a relocation or construction project, and to invite key staff involved with the project that can provide information about lab operations and possible impacts (vibration, HVAC, etc.).

PCB Monitoring Updates

In Dec. 2024, EPA proposed [Methods Update Rule 22](#) (MUR 22), which would remove all PCB Aroclor methods (608.3 and 625.1). The 2022 [Hg & PCBs Watershed Permit](#) requires BACWA members to use PCB Aroclor methods for compliance monitoring. Even if MUR 22 is finalized, Regional Water Board staff have advised that that PCB compliance monitoring using Aroclors will **not** change until the permit is reissued (c. early 2028). If MUR 22 is finalized, BACWA will work with the Regional Water Board to revise PCB monitoring requirements, as needed.

Complying with Methylene Chloride Regulations

Ngoc Le (City of San Jose) shared her agency’s plan for complying with the EPA’s regulations for [Methylene Chlorine](#) (aka Dichloromethane or DCM). Laboratories using DCM must have a workplace chemical protection plan, and initial exposure level monitoring is due May 5, 2025. Additional control measures are needed if the initial monitoring shows workers will be exposed above certain threshold criteria. The City’s exposure plan includes annual exposure monitoring, fume hood inspections, and incorporation of requirements into their chemical hygiene plan and staff training protocols. The City plans to use [these vapor monitoring badges](#) for initial screening.

Member Survey - The committee plans to circulate a survey soon regarding agency requirements for laboratory staff to have CWEA and/or AWWA certifications. Please respond to the survey!

Discussion Topics – Members are advised to triple-check that Third Party Assessment reports include **all** of the analytes that the agency need to be renewed or added to its FOA.