

**BAPPG and Pretreatment Committees  
Joint Report to BACWA Board**

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026  
Executive Board Meeting Date: February 20, 2026  
BAPPG Chairs: Robert Wilson (City of Santa Rosa), Autumn Ross (SFUC)  
Pretreatment Committee Chairs: Casey Fitzgerald (San José), Adam Kern (EBMUD)

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

86 attendees participated virtually, including representatives from 29 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and the State Water Board

**Updates on Committee Activities and Announcements**

- **Regional Water Board Announcements:** [DJ Alejandro](#) is now Pretreatment coordinator at the Regional Water Board. He shared that Pretreatment Annual Reports and Pollution Prevention Annual Reports are both due Feb. 28, but ideally both reports should be turned in the day before (Friday, Feb. 27). DJ has shared updated [tips for preparing Pollution Prevention reports](#). Pretreatment Annual Reports will follow the same requirements as previous years, as the State Water Board was granted a 3-year extension from USEPA on the federal [electronic reporting rule](#) for pretreatment reports.
- **BACWA Communication Update:** A [promotion plan](#) is now available for BACWA member agencies to use in promoting the recently completed “Wastewater 101” video.
- **BAPPG Steering Committee Updates:** The BAPPG Annual Report for 2025 is available on the [BACWA website](#). The spring digital media campaign will focus on pet pesticides.
- **BAPPG Pesticides Committee Update:** The committee is preparing a comment letter and recommending next steps for the CA Dept of Pesticide Regulation’s recent aquatic life risk assessment for [Fipronil Pet Products](#), which can wash off pets and end up in sewer systems.

**Joint Meeting of BAPPG and Pretreatment Committee**

The BAPPG and Pretreatment Committee co-chairs provided background information about their respective committees, which are both focused on source control. The group then discussed several wastewater pollutants that are of mutual concern to both committees (see below).

**Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)**

Melisa Guillen (City of American Canyon) shared information about [FOG outreach materials](#) that are available for members’ use. The group discussed the need for outreach materials for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ([MEHKOs](#)), which are now allowed by ordinances in 6 out of 9 Bay Area counties. Since there is no provision for wastewater agencies to inspect MEHKOs, the best way to control FOG is through outreach at the time the facilities receive a County permit. Working with County environmental health departments is also a great way to provide training to commercial kitchen staff. Tara McClinton (NapaSan) shared her experiences working with the local Small Business Develop Center, which is another avenue for reaching new restaurant and food truck owners. Members shared the following FOG-related resources during the meeting:

- Western States Alliance - [FOG videos](#), including grease interceptor cleaning videos
- Central San – [Grease Trap Maintenance Fact Sheet](#)
- Central San – [Presentation on FOG control](#) for food handlers
- Palo Alto - [Grease Control Fact Sheet for Food Businesses](#)

Members shared some of the software resources they use for tracking FOG compliance, including [SAMS FOG](#), [Linko](#), [FOG BMP](#) and [SwiftComply](#). Melissa Guillen will present on this topic at the 2026 [CWEA P3S Conference](#).

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***PFAS***

Mary Cousins (BACWA) shared information about BACWA's preliminary plans for conducting Phase 3 of a PFAS Regional Study, which will be led by scientists at the San Francisco Estuary Institute. BACWA member agencies are working with SFEI on the study's sampling plan, and will also be responsible for sampling at wastewater plants and in the collection system. Separately, the State Water Board is working with Regional Water Boards on a strategy for controlling industrial sources of PFAS. BACWA plans to assist with coordination between the Water Boards and pretreatment committee on this topic.

***Mercury***

Casey Fitzgerald (City of San José) shared information about his agency's dental amalgam program, which tracks about 900 dental practices across multiple cities within the plant's service area. The program coordinates with the [Santa Clara County Dental Society](#) on training and outreach activities. Casey explained that the City has changed the program over the years since its inception in 2009, both to incorporate the [federal pretreatment standards](#) and to emphasize inspections and outreach over permitting-related paperwork, and is considering further streamlining to the program. [Link to Slides](#).

***Nutrients***

Effluent limits for nitrogen are now in effect under the 2024 [Nutrients Watershed Permit](#). Nitrogen is not typically included in Pollutant Minimization Programs, since it is a natural part of residential wastewater. However, high levels of nitrogen are controllable in industrial wastewater, and pretreatment programs ordinances may require updates to address nitrogen. For example, nitrogen or ammonia can be included in local limits or incorporated into sewer service rates.

**Next BAPPG Meeting:** April 1, 2026, 10 am- 12pm, Virtual

**Next Pretreatment Committee Meeting:** TBD