



# YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026



**B A C W A**  
**B A Y A R E A**  
**C L E A N W A T E R**  
**A G E N C I E S**

Annual Meeting

May 15, 2026



# Membership Services

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- Committee activities and email lists
- BACWA Bulletin
- NPDES compliance reporting
- Regional POTW information clearinghouse
- Managers Roundtable
- Support for member fundraising
- Bay Are Chemical Consortium



# Regulatory Engagement



**Contents**

- Nutrients in San Francisco Bay
- SF Bay Nutrients Watershed Permit
- Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia
- Pesticides
- Mercury and PCBs
- State Water Board Toxicity Provisions
- Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)
- Microplastics
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

**KEY REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY**  
Updated February 9, 2026

Action items for member agencies are in **bold**

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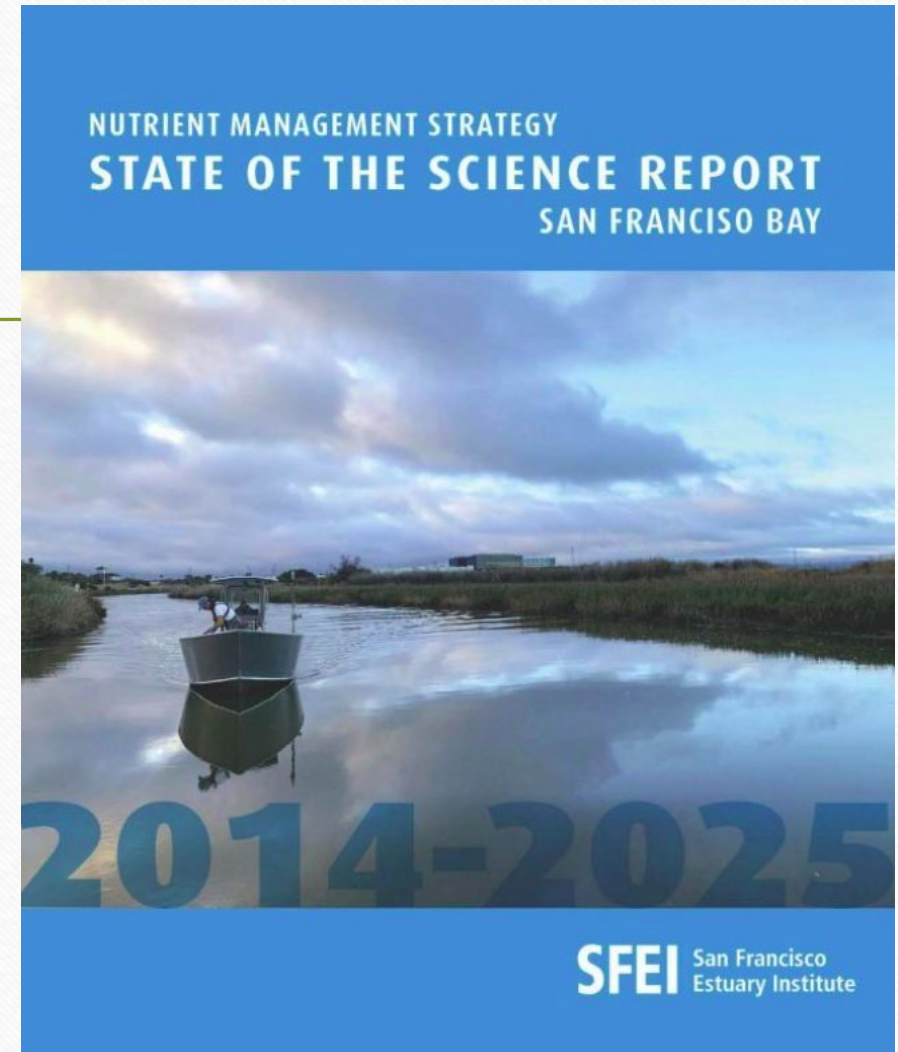
New updates in this version are shown in Purple highlighting – [Link to Previous Versions](#)

Background Highlights	Challenges and Recent Updates	Next Steps for BACWA	Links/Resources
<b>NUTRIENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Francisco Bay receives some of the highest nitrogen loads among estuaries worldwide, yet has not historically experienced the water quality problems typical of other nutrient-enriched estuaries.</li> <li>In the early 2000s, monitoring data of the Bay suggested that this historic resilience could be weakening. In 2012, stakeholders in the region formed the Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) to prioritize scientific studies and ensure that all science to be used for policy decisions is conducted under one umbrella.</li> <li>Program management of the NMS is led by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI).</li> <li>In summer 2022, a harmful algae bloom in San Francisco Bay brought increased public attention to this topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For FY26, BACWA is contributing \$2.2M to fund scientific research by the NMS science team, fulfilling a requirement of the <a href="#">2024 Watershed Permit</a>.</li> <li>In recent years, the NMS has been successful in attracting funding from other sources, such as NOAA and EPA, complementing BACWA's contributions. Continued federal funding is uncertain.</li> <li>The focus of current scientific efforts is improving model representation of biogeochemistry, light attenuation, dissolved oxygen, and harmful algal bloom dynamics.</li> <li>In May 2025, the NMS Steering Committee finalized a multi-year <a href="#">2025-2030 Science Plan</a>, as well as a more detailed work plan for the near term in the <a href="#">FY26 Program Plan</a>. Recent progress is summarized in the <a href="#">NMS FY26 Annual Report</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Share the recently-completed <a href="#">summary of the NMS science program with interested community members</a>.</b></li> <li><b>Share outreach materials related to nutrients with the general public, such as this <a href="#">BACWA video on clean water infrastructure</a>.</b></li> <li><b>Continue to participate in NMS steering committee, planning subcommittee meetings, and technical workgroups.</b></li> <li><b>Provide funding for scientific studies via the Nutrient Surcharge.</b></li> <li>Continue to leverage BACWA members and technical consultants to provide review of recent work products and charge questions for the science team.</li> <li>Continue to work with NMS scientists to obtain summaries of scientific accomplishments for public use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Science to Inform Management: An Overview of the Nutrient Management Strategy</a></li> <li><a href="#">BACWA Nutrients Page</a></li> <li><a href="#">SFEI Nutrient Management Strategy Page</a></li> <li><a href="#">NMS Steering Committee Meeting Materials</a></li> <li><a href="#">FY26 Program Plan and 2025-2030 Science Plan</a></li> <li><a href="#">NMS Work Products</a></li> <li><a href="#">Data Visualizations, including remote sensing of algae blooms</a></li> <li><a href="#">Baywise Website</a></li> </ul>

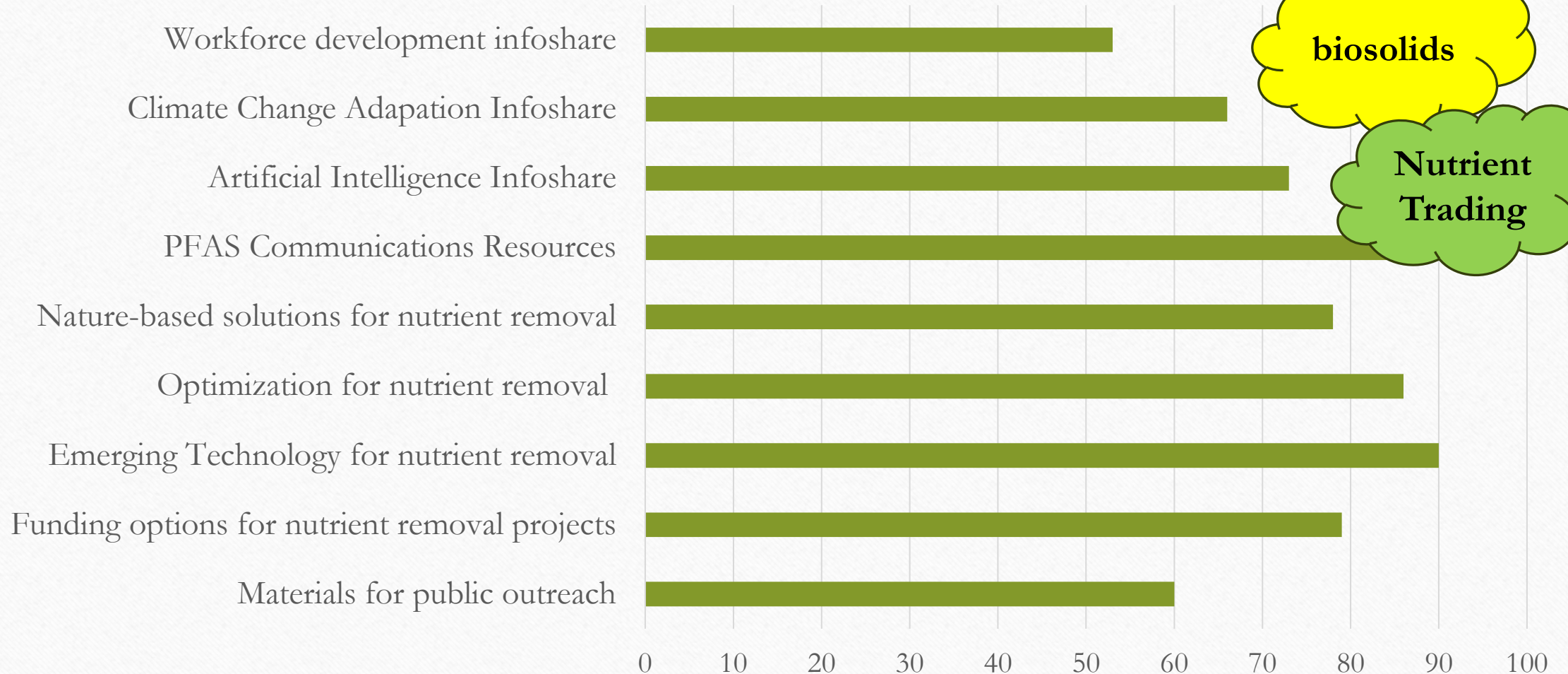
- Nutrients in the Bay and Ocean
- Mercury and PCBs Watershed Permit Compliance
- Toxicity, CECs, Pesticides, Microplastics, PFAS
- Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order (SSS-WDR)
- Laboratory Accreditation (ELAP)
- Air Issues
- Biosolids
- Climate Change
- Recycled Water

# Collaboration

- Representation at state and national associations
- Representation on key regional efforts and issues
- Bay Area scientific investigations
- Mercury and PCB risk reduction
- Bruce Wolfe memorial scholarship



## 2026 Registration Poll: What type of content would you like to see BACWA offer in the coming year?



# What to expect in 2026/27

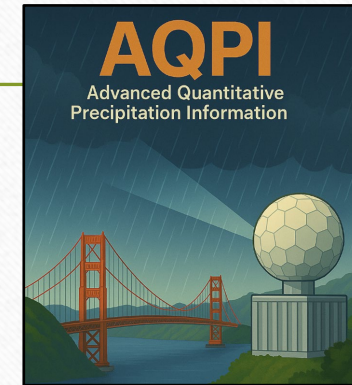
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- **Nutrient Infoshare series** – June 1
- **Nutrient Trading workshop** - August 31
- **PFAS Support**
  - Held PFAS Forum in Fall 2025
  - Working with State Water Board Staff on a PFAS Strategy
  - Developing materials on benefit and safety of biosolids
  - Developing PFAS communications strategy/toolkit
  - Phase III of Special Study with SFEI



# New collaborations for Fiscal Year 2026/27

- Consider taking over administration of AQPI
- Develop MOU with Air District for Engineering program management support
- Support Water Board on a Compliance Schedule Basin Plan Amendment, including CEQA Analysis
- Administration for USEPA SF Bay Program Office Grant



**San Francisco Bay  
Regional Water Board**



# BACWA Staffing Update

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Interim Regulatory  
Program Manager:  
**Alina Constantinescu**

**Permanent Regulatory Program Manager recruitment targeted for Summer 2026**



# Get involved!

## Contact Us

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