

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

July 2005

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is July 20, 2005.

See <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/> for latest details and agenda

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Revised Basin Plan Amendment and TMDL Released for Tomales Bay Pathogens	1
Napa River Pathogens and Sediment TMDLs Technical Reports Released (Michael Napolitano/Peter Krottje)	2
Municipal Regional Permit for Stormwater (Dale Bowyer / Wil Bruhns)	2
Refining Refinery Permits (Lila Tang)	2
Sewer System Improvements in the Pipeline (Lila Tang)	3
Basin Plan General Update (Steve Moore, Sarah Raker, Jeff Kapellas)	3
U.S. EPA Grant to Develop Stream and Wetlands Policy (Steve Moore)	4
Potrero Hills Landfill Expansion (Keith Roberson)	4
Central Station - West Oakland (Mark Johnson)	5
Local Oversight Program in Santa Clara County (Chuck Headlee)	6
Hookston Station Update (George Leyva)	6
Kinder Morgan Pipeline Rupture Cleanup– Walnut Creek (George Leyva)	7
Status of Discharges from Groundwater Cleanups (Derek Whitworth)	7
Zeneca and UC Richmond Field Station (Cecil Felix)	8
Record of Decision Signed for Site 27 at Former Naval Air Station Moffett Field (Adriana Constantinescu)	8
Hunters Point Shipyard Time Critical Removal Actions (James Ponton)	9
GAO Report on Perchlorate (Keith Roberson)	9
In-house Training	10
Staff Presentations and Outreach	10
<i>2nd Annual Regional IPM Conference: "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions"</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>National TMDL Conference</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Presentation to PUC on Water Board Power Plant Permitting and Water Quality Issues</i>	<i>10</i>

Revised Basin Plan Amendment and TMDL Released for Tomales Bay Pathogens

On July 8, we released a revised Basin Plan Amendment for the Tomales Bay Watershed Pathogens TMDL for public review. The TMDL includes water quality targets, load allocations and an implementation plan for protecting shellfish harvesting and recreational uses in the Tomales Bay Watershed. An earlier version of the TMDL and the proposed Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) was released for public comment in March 2005 and considered for public comment at the April 2005 Board hearing. Based on public comments received and the June 24 modeling results from an updated UC Berkeley study of the hydrodynamics in Tomales Bay, the TMDL and BPA have been modified to address the identified public concerns (including wildlife or background contributions, attainability of water quality targets and load allocations, feasibility of implementation, and identification of adaptive management issues).

A key revision is that we now propose increasing load allocations based on the updated modeling results to reflect the highest fecal coliform concentrations that can reach the Bay's tributaries while still attaining and maintaining the shellfish harvesting water quality objectives in the Bay. The

revised allocations are more than double those proposed previously, and tributaries that only have wildlife sources can meet the allocations. As directed by the Board at the continued hearing in June, we are providing stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on all revisions, and we expect to present the revised package with responses to all comments received to the Board for consideration in September. The revised Basin Plan Amendment package is available for review at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sabfranciscobay/tomalesbaypathogenstmdl.htm.

Napa River Pathogens and Sediment TMDLs Technical Reports Released

(Michael Napolitano/Peter Krottje)

We have also released technical reports for the Napa River pathogens and sediment TMDLs. Both reports are posted on our website under "Items for Comments" on our home page (see bottom of <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/index.htm>). We will also present our findings at the July 19 Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting in Napa, and at a larger public meeting scheduled for July 21 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM at the Yountville Community Hall. Our current schedule is to present the Basin Plan amendments and TMDLs for your consideration and adoption late next spring.

Municipal Regional Permit for Stormwater (Dale Bowyer / Wil Bruhns)

Over approximately the past year, Board staff have been meeting to discuss the proposed Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) with Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) and BayKeeper. At a June 27 meeting with BASMAA, general agreement was reached on MRP time schedules, permit structure, a permit-writing process, and stakeholder involvement. Most details, and all their associated "devils", still need to be worked out. The following summarizes the general approach.

The agreed goal is to bring a draft MRP to the Board by the June 2006 meeting. To accomplish that, Board staff and BASMAA will be meeting in work groups for the rest of this year to work out draft permit language with a completion goal of Thanksgiving. Staff also intends to involve BayKeeper and other stakeholders in this process, including holding a general stakeholder workshop (with others in addition to BASMAA and BayKeeper) during the permit language development process this autumn. An initial draft permit will be ready in January 2006, at which point we will have more general stakeholder meetings to take comments and resolve concerns. A formal draft permit would be issued by April 2006 for public comment and a Board hearing in June 2006.

Regarding permit content, during the last meeting staff and BASMAA agreed that Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation levels and reporting requirements should be more specific than current permits require. This should allow cities and Board staff to: measure effectiveness in a meaningful manner; determine whether a permittee has achieved compliance by comparing permit requirements to what is submitted in Annual Report; and allow permittees to understand what is expected from them in the Permit. We agreed that the MRP will contain tables that show: 1. What is Required (BMPs); 2. Level of Implementation; and 3. Reporting. The work groups noted in the above paragraph will be spending their efforts primarily to fill out all the details of these tables, which will be organized by the various mandated stormwater program components, such as municipal activities, public outreach, monitoring, new development, commercial and industrial inspections, etc. I will keep the Board informed on the progress of this process.

Refining Refinery Permits (Lila Tang)

The permit reissuance for the Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery in Avon will be on the Board's September Agenda. We would like to point out two items of particular interest. First, we refined the draft permit provisions in response to Board member comments on the Conoco-Phillips permit last

month. Second, we expect a high level of public interest about dioxin from this refinery, which a few Board members may remember as the Tosco Avon refinery from its permit reissuance five years ago.

On refining the permit, we've met with the Western State's Petroleum Association and have agreed to a solution to their concerns about pollution prevention requirements in the permit. Also, we added a provision that more clearly establishes the requirements of the State Implementation Policy (SIP) for pollutants granted a compliance schedule. Board member Wolff pointed out this deficiency in the Conoco-Phillips permit last month. Though these obligations were stated in various findings of that permit, they were not in the provisions as an enforceable requirement. This was a historical holdover from 2000 when the SIP established new expectations, and the regulated community, and us, had significant uncertainty about how to demonstrate compliance. Times have changed, and there are mechanisms in place now that address some of the uncertainties. Thus, putting them into the permit provisions is appropriate.

On the dioxin issue, the reissuance of this permit five years ago drew quite a bit of public and press attention. Dioxin is a very toxic compound and its issues and regulation are complex in that it primarily comes from air emissions, but deposition of those emissions impacts water quality through stormwater runoff. Because we expect a similar level of interest this time, we plan to prepare an information fact sheet for the public, press and community leaders to explain the facts behind the issues. We will discuss this effort in more detail in the August Executive Officer's report.

Sewer System Improvements in the Pipeline (Lila Tang)

We have recently sent out guidance to sewer collection system agencies on elements they need to implement to reduce and prevent raw sewage spills. The guidance calls for the agencies to develop ten elements over the next three years. These elements include developing emergency response plans, assessing the system's capacity, assessing maintenance needs, and performing maintenance to keep the sewer collection system in good working order.

The guidance document was developed in collaboration with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), which is an association of permitted wastewater dischargers. This effort is a continuation of the approach endorsed by the Water Board in a 2003 resolution. Other accomplishments include six outreach workshops, and the deployment of a web-based sewage spill reporting system last autumn. We are planning to present a more detailed status report on this effort later this year.

Basin Plan General Update (Steve Moore/ Sarah Raker/ Jeff Kapellas)

The last general update of the Basin Plan occurred in 1995. As such, there are program and issue descriptions that are out-of-date, making the document less user-friendly to the public. This year, we selected the highest priority, non-regulatory projects from the Basin Plan Triennial Review, approved by the Board in November 2004, and have worked with the various divisions of the Board to update informational and planning language in the Basin Plan. This fall, we plan to present this package of proposed editorial changes for your approval.

The proposed changes can be grouped into (1) document organizational update, (2) beneficial use maps and tables update, including correction of errors, and (3) program description updates. Document organizational changes include a numbering scheme for Basin Plan Sections to facilitate citations, a list of acronyms, and formation of a new Chapter 7 for TMDLs and other Water Quality Attainment Strategies. The designated beneficial uses and water bodies in previous printed Basin Plans have been reviewed, and we identified a number of errors that need correction. The one

regulatory change is to designate the sport fishing beneficial use to all freshwaters of the Region where the Department of Fish and Game issues fishing licenses. The maps of the Basin Plan will be updated using 21st century mapping technology. Program descriptions will be updated for groundwater protection and management, wastewater pollution prevention, watershed management, wetlands, onsite (septic) systems, water recycling (formerly called reclamation), and selected municipal wastewater facilities. We will also include text on evolving water quality issues such as wetland restoration, desalination, and the issue of emerging contaminants of concern.

The Basin Plan's appearance will also benefit from the updated maps, tables and desktop publishing. We have worked with San Francisco Estuary Project staff to design a new template and to create a Basin Plan file on our website that is printable on both color and black-and-white printers.

U.S. EPA Grant to Develop Stream and Wetlands Policy (Steve Moore)

Last month, U.S. EPA awarded a wetland development grant to the North Coast and San Francisco Bay Water Boards for a major Basin Planning undertaking. In the Basin Plan Triennial Review of November 2004, the Board assigned a high priority to development of a stream protection policy to guide regulatory programs in watersheds. The North Coast Board also identified this as a priority in its 2004 Triennial Review. Facing staff resource challenges to accomplish this priority, we co-applied to U.S. EPA for a grant to work together to develop a "Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy" with potential statewide applicability. When our proposal was met with enthusiasm from U.S. EPA staff, additional tasks identified by State Water Board were added to our draft workplan to create statewide templates for beneficial uses related to stream and wetland functions and a California definition of "wetlands." These additional tasks yielded additional grant funding, and now the grant will fund two full-time positions for about two years, working for the two water boards. One person will manage the technical and scheduling details of the project, developing case studies in science and economics, and the other person will manage the communications and stakeholder process for policy development, which will have a statewide reach. In late June, we announced the project manager job, and applications are now being accepted. We expect to hire the communications officer in the Fall. The project is scheduled for completion by October 2007, and we will keep the Board periodically updated on its progress.

Potrero Hills Landfill Expansion (Keith Roberson)

The Potrero Hills Landfill near Suisun City in Solano County has proposed a major expansion. The Landfill has been receiving municipal wastes since 1986 and has been operating in compliance with a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order adopted by the Board in 1993. The Solano County Department of Environmental Management is the local enforcement agency (LEA) for the Landfill and is also administering the CEQA process for the proposed expansion. The CEQA process is well under way. A final Environmental Impact Report has been prepared and is under review for certification. The public comment period on the Final EIR is now closed.

Because the Board is not a land use agency and will not be involved in the decision to approve or deny the proposed expansion and its attendant land use changes, Board staff has had only minimal involvement in the CEQA process. Our technical oversight of the landfill expansion would generally begin when the CEQA process has been completed and only if the landfill expansion is approved. At that point, the Board's Groundwater Protection Division staff would review the proposed landfill design for compliance with applicable regulations, and would recommend that the Board adopt revised WDRs as appropriate.

In addition, our North Bay Watershed Division will consider granting a 401 Certification for a proposed streambed alteration. Board staff does not expect to be involved in either of these activities

for several months. We do not expect any issues related to this Landfill to be on the Board agenda in 2005.

Nonetheless, a group of citizens opposed to the Landfill's expansion appeared before the Board at its June meeting. The citizens complained of nuisances such as odors and dust, and expressed concerns over impacts to public health and the environment from the current landfill operations. The citizens requested that the Board investigate and address certain issues, including 1) the legality of biosolids (treated wastewater sludge) disposal at the Landfill, 2) alleged water quality impacts to private wells near the Landfill, and 3) whether the Landfill can maintain the required 5-foot separation between the bottom liner and the groundwater table. Groundwater Protection Division staff has investigated these complaints and prepared a written response to the citizens. Staff has concluded that 1) use and disposal of biosolids at the Landfill is legal and in compliance with the WDR and other regulations; 2) impacts to water quality from this Landfill have been very minor and have not been detected in any off-site wells, and 3) the Landfill's expansion will not be allowed to proceed until after adoption of appropriate WDR amendments by the Board in a public meeting, and Board staff has certified that the liner design complies with prescriptive regulatory specifications, including maintenance of the required 5-foot separation between the liner and groundwater.

In summary, staff does not believe the Landfill is in violation of any laws and regulations over which the Board has jurisdiction. While the Landfill's operator should strive to address the nuisance issues raised by the citizens, we have seen no evidence that public health or the environment has been threatened by the Landfill. If the Landfill's expansion is approved, the public will have the opportunity to submit comments on water quality when this Board considers the adoption of amended WDRs and the 401 Certification.

Central Station - West Oakland (Mark Johnson)

At the public forum last month, you heard from two West Oakland residents who were concerned about the Board's oversight of the Central Station site on Wood Street in West Oakland. The residents represent the West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project, an environmental justice organization. Since the Water Board's June meeting, we have had several conversations with the Project representatives, including a June 22 meeting in West Oakland. We described our oversight process in general and in detail for the Central Station site. The Project representatives described their concerns about the redevelopment project and associated cleanup, and suggested public participation measures to include in our process. We agreed to brief a larger group of Project representatives at their regular meeting later this month. Separately, we also agreed to participate in a DTSC environmental justice pilot project in West Oakland; the pilot project covers all of West Oakland and is intended to spur dialog between residents and environmental regulators over cleanup issues in general.

The Central Station site is a significant Brownfield site, roughly 29 acres in size. It is an elongated set of parcels located adjacent to the 880 freeway in West Oakland. A key feature is the former Oakland Train Station, which has been closed for several years. Redevelopment plans call for the historic station building to be preserved as a museum for the community. The developers and the City of Oakland have been working through the site development and entitlement process to allow the site to be redeveloped for residential use. To this end, the City recently approved a general plan amendment, zoning change, tentative parcel map, and certification of the development's environmental impact report. The project has been broken into nine separate development areas. In total, the proposed development will consist of approximately 1,500 housing units, mostly of higher density. Of the 1,500 planned units, about 1,000 will be for sale and 500 rental. The project includes a 15% below market rate (affordable housing) component.

The redevelopment of this property has been a charged issue for the community. Prior to the June meeting, Water Board staff had attended several public meetings regarding the redevelopment. Based on staff's observation, the primary community concerns expressed at these meetings include:

- Traffic and parking associated with construction and the subsequent homes
- Emissions from vehicles/air quality
- Residual soil and groundwater pollution
- Preservation of existing train station
- Affordable housing
- Gentrification of the neighborhood

Cal/EPA in 2001 designated the Board as the lead agency for site investigation and remediation of the Central Station site pursuant to state law (AB 2061). Under this law, the designated lead agency is obliged to solicit input from other agencies and the public, and the other agencies are obliged to live with the lead agency's cleanup decision. Since 2001, we have reviewed site investigation data and have approved stringent cleanup standards appropriate for residential redevelopment of the property. Site contaminants include petroleum, metals, volatile and semi-volatile compounds. We still need to review and approve cleanup plans for each of the nine redevelopment parcels. Now that the City has decided on the underlying land use of the site and cleanup plans are under way, it is appropriate for us to begin a more vigorous public participation process. We are working with the developers, City staff, and community representatives to formulate and carry out a public participation plan. We will include the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project in these efforts. We will keep the Board informed of progress on this site.

Local Oversight Program in Santa Clara County (Chuck Headlee)

On July 1, the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health (County) took on full responsibility for the Local Oversight Program for leaking underground fuel tanks in Santa Clara County. This follows a one-year transition period when both the County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District oversaw leaking fuel tank cases. Prior to that, the District had sole responsibility for overseeing leaking fuel tank cases, with the County involved only as an intermediary in securing annual contracts from the State Board. The District has played this oversight role since the early 1990s when local oversight programs were established in 20 California counties. The transition was undertaken to simplify regulation of leaking fuel sites in Santa Clara County.

Following the transition period, the County's Local Oversight Program has about four full-time-equivalent staff, including a registered geologist and two hazardous material specialists, and an inventory of about 400 open cases (leaking underground fuel tanks). Board staff provided substantial assistance during the one-year transition period. Both the Board and the District will continue to provide technical support to the County to assure the success of this important program. Santa Clara Valley relies heavily on groundwater for its drinking water supply, and the Board has for decades given high priority to protection of groundwater quality in this area.

Hookston Station Update (George Leyva)

On June 20, Board staff hosted a community meeting in Pleasant Hill to discuss the draft risk assessment for the Hookston Station site. Solvents released at the site have created a groundwater contamination plume that extends over 1,000 feet off-site of the former railroad station. The risk assessment identified several potential threats to human health, including vapor intrusion into off-site residences and VOCs in private well water used for irrigation and swimming pools.

Approximately 120 people attended the meeting. Most attendees were homeowners from the immediate neighborhood. The meeting was also attended by the responsible parties' toxicologist and a representative of the Department of Health Services' Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB), which is providing toxicological support to the Board on this case.

The comment period for the risk assessment will end shortly, and we expect to act on the report later in July following consideration of comments received. The site cleanup order for this site requires the responsible parties to submit a remedial action plan within 120 days after we approve the risk assessment. At that time we will prepare a final site cleanup order for Board consideration.

Kinder Morgan Pipeline Rupture Cleanup– Walnut Creek (George Leyva)

Board staff are preparing a site cleanup order to direct investigation and cleanup of gasoline contamination at the site of last November's pipeline rupture and fire in Walnut Creek. A draft Site Cleanup Order will be circulated for public comment later this month. Depending on the comments received, a final order will either be administratively issued in August or brought to the Board's September meeting for consideration and action.

On November 9, 2004, EBMUD's contractor was in the process of installing a 69-inch diameter water line in Walnut Creek along South Broadway in the public right-of-way. The principal contractor, Mountain Cascade, punctured an adjacent pressurized fuel line owned by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, releasing a significant volume of gasoline and causing a fire that killed several workers.

Board staff asked for an initial investigation to determine if residual gasoline from the rupture had contaminated soil or groundwater in the vicinity. In early May, Mountain Cascade submitted a site investigation report documenting the presence of significant fuel residuals in the vicinity of the pipeline rupture, both in soil and as free product floating on the water table. Further work is needed to define the extent of the contamination and provide appropriate cleanup. Board staff conclude that a site cleanup order issued pursuant to Water Code section 13304 is the appropriate mechanism to guide this work. The site cleanup order will name all appropriate parties.

Status of Discharges from Groundwater Cleanups (Derek Whitworth)

We regulate the discharge of most of the treated groundwater extracted from beneath fuel and solvent cleanup sites through two general permits, one for fuels and one for solvents. As of June 30, we had 82 facilities authorized to discharge under the fuel general permit, 72 facilities authorized to discharge under the solvent general permit, and two facilities authorized to discharge under individual permits. Of those facilities authorized to discharge, only about 60% are currently discharging.

Board staff activities and accomplishments regulating these dischargers during the past year include:

- Reissued the solvent general permit
- Issued 77 letters reauthorizing discharges under the reissued solvent general permit
- Issued four letters authorizing new discharges
- Rescinded discharge authorizations for 18 fuel sites and six solvent sites
- Inspected ten treatment facilities
- Reviewed approximately 400 self-monitoring reports

During the year a major effort was undertaken to convert from paper-based correspondence and reporting to electronic files. All letters sent to permit holders are now sent by email as Portable Document Format (PDF) files. All application documents and monitoring reports submitted by dischargers are delivered electronically as PDF files. All communications and reports are electronically indexed and archived. Formal correspondence and monitoring reports can also now be viewed over the Internet. Similar use of electronic media is a goal for all of our programs.

Zeneca and UC Richmond Field Station (Cecil Felix)

As we have reported before, at Cal/EPA direction, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has assumed the role of lead regulatory agency for the cleanup of both of these sites in south Richmond. One of the points of contention from groups supporting that change was that the Board was not adequately protecting the public health of the nearby community. We disagreed.

In an attempt to resolve those concerns, the California Department of Health Service Services (DHS) and the Contra Costa County Health Services Department (CCHSD) has reviewed potential human health risks presented by site conditions and site cleanup activities. DHS and CCHSD issued an Interim Joint Health Statement late June as well as conducted several public meetings with the potentially affected community. The findings of the Statement indicate that under current site conditions outdoor and indoor air does not appear to present an immediate health threat, nor do marsh sediments, excepting those sediments in the areas already slated for future remediation. However, the Statement also indicates that there is the potential for human health risks under specific site conditions, including: 1) airborne dust associated with site remediation, 2) long-term exposure to indoor air, and; 3) digging by onsite workers in unremediated areas. The Statement recommends actions to further evaluate risks, including additional sampling, monitoring, and literature research. The Statement also recommends measures to mitigate potential risks, including fencing, posting of notifications, development of health and safety plans, and training for onsite workers. We do not disagree with these findings. DHS and CCHSD, as well as DTSC, will continue to review existing and new data to confirm and possibly update these findings as cleanup proceeds. DTSC has also formed a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to provide the potential of more community involvement. Staff expect to participate in some of the CAG's activities over the next year.

Record of Decision Signed for Site 27 at Former Naval Air Station Moffett Field

(Adriana Constantinescu)

I recently approved a record of decision (ROD) for the selected remedy for Site 27 at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field. The selected remedy consists of excavation and offsite disposal of sediments from the Site 27 wetland area that are contaminated with PCBs, pesticides, and heavy metals. Site 27 includes the Northern Channel, drainage ditches, and associated features located in the northeastern portion of Moffett Field. Historically, the Northern Channel has received stormwater runoff from Moffett Field and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Ames Research Center.

Moffett Field is located adjacent to the City of Mountain View and immediately south of some of the South Bay salt ponds slated for restoration at the southern tip of the Bay. Moffett Field was once operated by the Navy or U.S. Army Air Corps from 1933 – 1994 and is now operated by NASA's Ames Research Center.

We find the selected alternative presented in this ROD as an appropriate solution to achieve the site's remedial action objective by permanently eliminating risks for both human and ecological receptors associated with contaminated sediment and soil at the Site.

Hunters Point Shipyard Time Critical Removal Actions (James Ponton)

The Navy is currently engaged in four spatially distinct time critical removal actions (TCRAs) located adjacent to the southern shoreline at the Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS). The TCRAs include a 1-acre metal slag and 1.2-acre metal debris reef site containing industrial waste and molten, embedded radioactive point sources, a 4.1-acre PCB hot spot, and a 3-acre site containing buried radioactive point sources.

The contaminants of concern that require these TCRAs include:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), separate phase petroleum hydrocarbons, and petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil that, under certain circumstances, may pose an unacceptable risk to human and ecological (terrestrial and aquatic) receptors; and,
- Radioactive contaminated material (metal debris, sandblast grit, soil, etc.) that pose a risk to the surrounding environment as the result of weathering, erosion, seismic events, or biological activity.

The remedial objectives of the TCRAs are designed to eliminate the potential threat posed by future migration and/or offsite release of the listed contaminants, and to limit human and ecological receptor exposure to the contaminants by breaking the potential pathways from the contaminants in soil to the potential receptors. Total cost of the removal actions is estimated at \$15 million with restoration completed by September 2005.

GAO Report on Perchlorate (Keith Roberson)

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recently released a report on perchlorate, dated May 2005, to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. Perchlorate is of special concern because of its wide-spread impacts on groundwater supplies. Perchlorate contamination is especially predominant in areas where explosives were manufactured or used (including rocket motor testing). Several large perchlorate contamination areas are found in Southern California, in Sacramento at the former Aerojet facility, in southern Santa Clara County from the former Olin flare manufacturing plant (but outside our Region), and at the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) site in our Region, southeast of San Jose. The report summarizes: 1) the extent of perchlorate contamination within the United States and its territories; 2) actions that have been taken to address perchlorate contamination; and 3) the conclusions of studies into health risks associated with perchlorate exposure. Board staff were contacted by the GAO during its inquiry on perchlorate, and provided site-specific information to the auditors. The GAO report recommends that U.S. EPA establish a nationwide system to track sampling and cleanup results. Among the significant findings of this report, with relevance to this Board, are:

- Perchlorate contamination has been found at almost 400 sites in the U.S., with more than half of these in California and Texas.
- Of the 106 sites reported within California, the UTC site in Santa Clara County has the distinction of having the highest detected groundwater concentration (1,282,000 ppb). (Cal/EPA's Office of Health Hazard Assessment has currently recommended a Public Health Goal of 6 ppb; the drinking water standard is yet to be adopted).
- While there is no specific federal requirement to clean up perchlorate, the U.S. EPA and several states, including California, have used broad authorities under various environmental laws and regulations to require perchlorate investigations and cleanups activities.

- The UTC site is highlighted as one of three sites nationwide where a state has proactively required termination of perchlorate release and perchlorate cleanup. (There are certainly other sites in California where state agencies have required cleanup, but UTC was the only one cited as an example).
- The report notes that the Department of Defense (DOD) did not agree with the findings of GAO's audit, and that the DOD has been reluctant to sample and cleanup perchlorate sites.

While the report does not reveal anything new, it does provide some context and support for our regulatory efforts and cleanup requirements.

In-house Training

Our June training was on public participation; this is part of a series of public participation trainings being provided to the various Water Board offices by UC Davis trainers as part of the State Board's Water Quality Academy. Our July training will be on balancing priorities.

Staff Presentations and Outreach

2nd Annual Regional IPM Conference: "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions"

Bill Johnson delivered the opening welcome speech June 14 at the 2nd Annual Regional IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Conference: "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions". The conference, held in Oakland, was sponsored by a number of Bay Area municipalities, including many urban runoff management agencies.

National TMDL Conference

Tom Mumley attended the national TMDL 2005 Conference held by the Water Environment Federation in Philadelphia on June 27-29. He presented papers on two of our TMDL projects that are nearing completion: San Francisco Bay Urban Creeks and Pesticide-Toxicity TMDL and San Francisco Bay PCBs TMDL.

Presentation to PUC on Water Board Power Plant Permitting and Water Quality Issues

Alexa LaPlante made a presentation to the California Public Utilities Commission on July 6 on the Water Board's permitting process and power plant water quality issues.