

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

May 2007

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is May 9, 2007.
See [Hhttp://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/) for latest details and

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Bay Water Quality Improved in the Past Four Decades (Lila Tang)

In response to Board member Terry Young's inquiry about pollutant trends in San Francisco Bay in relation to compliance with the State's anti-degradation policy, we reviewed some literature and prepared this status report. In general, Bay water quality has improved over the last four decades. The most notable water quality improvements occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. We infer this trend from Bay sediment cores, as water quality data are not available from this early time period. Because the San Francisco Bay estuary is highly complex, definitive conclusions about trends are not available for many pollutants. While concentrations of pollutants such as legacy pesticides (like DDT), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls have decreased, we are observing increasing concentrations for one new class of pollutants (brominated flame retardants).

Bay sediment cores show that toxic metals (e.g. copper, silver, lead) have declined since their peak in the 1960s and 1970's, likely in response to wastewater treatment

improvements, product bans, and other regulatory actions. In addition, mussel tissue data show declines in polychlorinated biphenyls and organochlorine pesticides since the 1980s, when these compounds were banned. In the past 10 to 15 years, data collected under the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP), and other research, do not show a clear increase or decline for most pollutants, which indicates that the Bay is holding steady. (For more details on trends, see www.sfei.org for all RMP data and reports).

One new pollutant is clearly on the increase: polybrominated diphenyl ethers (often referred to as "PBDE"), which are used as flame retardants. State legislation will ban certain forms of these brominated flame retardants starting in 2008, but not all forms are included in the ban. We hope to be able to redirect some staff resources from core activities, such as permitting, to focus on preventative based solutions to this emerging problem.

Renewed Focus on Flame Retardants (Naomi Feger)

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) flame retardants were the subject of an April 19, 2007 meeting held this month at UC Berkeley and attended by Board staff. PBDEs have been found in San Francisco Bay harbor seal blubber, fish, bird eggs, peregrine falcons and human breast milk and adipose tissue. California has banned certain types of PBDEs, such as those commonly found in polyurethane foam. Since the ban, other chlorinated compounds have been substituted for PBDEs to enable manufacturers to meet the flame standards set by California Bureau of Home Furnishings. Presentations at the meeting included concerns regarding the safety of these substitute chemicals, which have been measured in wastewater in Europe, recent information about toxicology, and innovative solutions to addressing fire safety risks. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control also presented recent findings that Peregrine Falcons have high levels of decabromo diphenyl ether or DecaBDE, a PBDE that was not banned by California. DecaBDE is added to plastics to inhibit fires in computers, TVs, automobiles etc. and has been measured in biota, sediment and water in San Francisco Bay.

PBDEs are on our non-regulatory watch list of pollutants that may be impairing the Bay. We are currently evaluating all available San Francisco Bay PBDE data as part of the 2008 update and revision of the State's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. This review will include consideration of a forthcoming report from the Clean Estuary Partnership on PBDEs in the Bay prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Lawsuits Filed by Vincent Road Owners (Dorothy Dickey)

In last month's report, we noted that the State Board had dismissed the petitions filed by two adjoining owners of properties located near the Hookston Station site in Pleasant Hill. The two owners - Mayhew Center, LLC, and Walnut Creek Manor, LLC - had each filed petitions challenging section 13267 letters issued by the Executive Officer to require further site investigation. In dismissing the petitions, the State Board concluded that the petitions did not raise any substantial issues appropriate for review. Following the State Board's dismissal, each of the landowners filed a lawsuit against this Board in Contra Costa County Superior Court. We have requested legal representation by the Attorney

General's Office, as is customary in this situation. We will keep the Board apprised of significant developments in the litigation.

Awards for Medicine Collection Program (Heather Ottaway)

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) recently received an Outstanding Achievement USEPA Environmental Award for its Safe Medicine Disposal Days held in May 2006. The Safe Medicine Disposal Days was a first-of-its-kind Bay Area collection event piloted by BAPPG to address potential water quality issues arising from improper disposal of residential pharmaceutical waste. The award was presented to BAPPG project leaders Karin North (Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant) and Jen Jackson (East Bay Municipal Utilities District) at the Ninth Annual USEPA Region 9 Environmental Awards ceremony held in San Francisco on April 16, 2007.

BAPPG took the challenge to reduce waste pharmaceuticals entering wastewater treatment plants by organizing the pilot program with 17 agencies managing all of the collection event details. Participating agencies and non-profit groups worked together with Walgreen's to collect over 3,500 pounds of pharmaceutical waste from 1,500 residents at 39 locations throughout the Bay Area. The event was highly publicized region-wide through coordinated outreach, including a dedicated Web site, newspaper ads, direct mailings, flyers, transit ads, and radio public service ads.

Since the collection event last May, BAPPG and others have been working toward developing a long-term sustainable disposal solution for unused and unwanted pharmaceuticals. The model currently being considered is a mail-back program where residents receive mailers at the pharmacy and then mail their unwanted medications to a local reverse distributor.

On a similar note, staff is developing the Teng Chung Wu Memorial Award for Pollution Prevention Excellence. Agencies, organizations, and individuals who feel they have demonstrated outstanding achievement or innovation in pollution prevention will be eligible to apply for the award. Staff is considering presenting the award annually during Pollution Prevention Week, which occurs each September.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Takes on Trash (Karen Taberski)

This month our region's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) issued the results of a trash assessment at 26 sites throughout the Bay Area. *A Rapid Trash Assessment Method Applied to Waters of the San Francisco Bay Region: Trash Measurement in Streams* employed a peer-reviewed method in 93 separate surveys. The report and additional information on SWAMP are available online at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/monitoring.html>.

All of the 14 watersheds in the study had high levels of trash. There did not appear to be any one county or region with higher trash levels than the others. Sites lower in the watershed (generally nearer the Bay) tended to have the highest densities of trash due to the combined effects of local littering and dumping, and deposition from upstream sources.

Trash was usually associated with parks, schools, roads or poorly kept commercial facilities. Following trash removal, there were very high return rates of trash, even in the dry season.

In addition to the trash assessments, we have completed water quality monitoring in 34 watersheds over a five-year period. Two reports describing water quality conditions for the first three years will be available in July. The primary goal of SWAMP at this time is to develop a watershed monitoring coalition with urban runoff programs and others to conduct monitoring in a collaborative and consistent manner. All data collected by SWAMP, including the trash assessment results, will be used in our 2008 Integrated Report to U.S. EPA in response to Clean Water Act requirements. This report will include our findings from all water bodies assessed in the region and the 303(d) list of impaired waters. We will update the Board periodically on our progress in developing this report.

Chronic Toxicity Usually Low in Wastewater Discharges (Lila Tang)

Chronic toxicity data from over 30 wastewater permittees show that, with just a few exceptions, there is very little chronic toxicity in wastewater discharges. Only nine permittees measured chronic toxicity in the past 4 to 5 years at a level high enough to trigger accelerated monitoring. Of these, three measured ongoing toxicity, with only two continuing to do so currently. The other six hit their trigger just once or twice, and upon accelerated monitoring toxicity was no longer present.

The two permittees that continue to find chronic toxicity are the municipal wastewater treatment plants for the City of Sunnyvale and the Fairfield Suisun Sewer District. For the City, 38 out of its past 92 samples have been above a trigger level. For the District, its rate is 16 out of the past 21 samples. Both the City and the District initiated toxicity identification studies, but their studies have not succeeded in identifying the cause. Both treatment plants use advanced secondary treatment, that already produce a better quality discharge than most. However, because they both also discharge to shallow water environments, their chronic toxicity triggers are more sensitive than most other treatment plants. Water Board staff will continue to work with both permittees to try to resolve their problems prior to their next permit reissuances in late 2008.

In this region, chronic toxicity testing started in the early 1980s. The Board formalized requirements in its 1986 Basin Plan and revised them in 1995. Chronic tests involve a wide variety of test species including shrimp, abalone, fish, water fleas, algae, kelp, and mussels and oysters. The main differences between acute and chronic tests are that chronic tests often take longer and assess both lethal and sub-lethal endpoints (e.g. fertilization, growth). Several years ago, the State Board indicated its intent to establish statewide toxicity policy, but current progress on this effort has not been provided.

This status report is based on data for 31 of the roughly 40 to 50 permittees with chronic toxicity requirements in this region. We believe the conclusion is representative of the entire group because the 31 permittees include both municipal permittees (19) and major and minor industrial permittees (12). We limited our review to this subset because they report electronically to the Board's Electronic Reporting System. Without this system, such

a review would be extremely difficult if not impossible. For example, it included a total of 529 data points that would have taken over 2 weeks to compile from paper reports.

Urban Releaf Project (John West)

On April 27, at the Oakland Olivet Baptist Church, Board staff participated in a celebration to mark the conclusion of Urban Releaf's very successful four year Ettie Street Watershed Research Project, and eight years, and still growing, of tree planting in Oakland. The official goal of the Project was to test the effects urban trees have on stormwater runoff and water quality, as well as to provide community education and outreach. However the value of the Project, and of the tree growing Program, has been much larger. This project was funded by a \$350,000 CALFED Water Protection Grant that was administered by Board staff. Urban Releaf won US EPA Region IX's 2005 Environmental Award for outstanding achievement.

Urban Releaf, a community-based urban forestry organization, was founded in 1998 by Kemba Shakur, the only African American female to head a non-profit Urban Forestry group in the nation. Urban Releaf has been devoted to revitalizing underserved communities with poor environmental health and sparse greenery by planting trees. The organization trains and hires local at-risk youth and ex-offenders in urban forestry, providing valuable job skills and green jobs in areas with high unemployment. Urban trees increase permeable surfaces which can improve stormwater quality and quantity problems, and they combat global warming by sequestering carbon and reducing urban temperatures through shade and transpiration.

Since Urban Releaf's inception, the organization has overseen the planting and distribution of approximately 12,000 trees in Oakland and trained approximately 4,000 youth as employees and volunteers. Although only preliminary results are available, it's estimated that by planting 1,800 trees within 1.8 square miles of West Oakland, 9 million gallons of contaminated stormwater that would otherwise flow to the Bay will be diverted. Among other positive results, the study also found that pollutant levels were reduced in City blocks that had more tree canopy cover. For more information, see Urban Releaf's web site: <http://www.urbanreleaf.org/>

Marshall Community Wastewater System (Farhad Ghodrati)

The County of Marin, as the lead agency, is seeking approval to construct and operate community wastewater facilities to serve up to 38 developed lots in the Town of Marshall (called the Phase 1 Service Area), with possible future expansion and service for an additional 20 developed properties located to the south of the Phase 1 Service Area. The County is also proposing to establish a new Onsite Wastewater Disposal Zone (Zone) to provide for operation and maintenance of the community wastewater system. The Zone would initially encompass all parcels in the Marshall Phase 1 Service Area, with the possibility for future expansion to include onsite wastewater management services for other properties along the East Shore area of Tomales Bay. The wastewater facilities will be constructed in the summer and fall of 2007, under a contract let by the County of Marin.

The focus of this project is the development of sanitary wastewater facility improvements for the East Shore area of Tomales Bay, in western Marin County. The area is comprised mainly of large agricultural parcels used for grazing purposes; however, it also contains a number of residential and commercial properties located along the shoreline, with the greatest concentration around the town of Marshall. There are presently nearly 100 residences situated on generally very small parcels immediately adjacent to the Bay, or located a short distance away along tributary drainages. There are no community sewerage facilities in the area; all properties are dependent on individual onsite systems (i.e., septic systems) for treatment and disposal of sanitary wastes. Most of the onsite systems are old, noncompliant with respect to current codes, and a continuing source of public health and water quality concern. Many of the systems are in need of replacement or a major repair. A recent sanitary survey of a portion of the area documented leakage of partially treated sewage into the Bay, and an overall failure rate of about 24 percent.

Tomales Bay is an impaired water body for pathogen levels and has been listed as such in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. Faulty onsite wastewater systems, especially for properties along the shoreline, have been identified as one of the sources contributing to the water quality impairment.

Over the past few years, the Marin County Community Development Agency has undertaken various activities to improve onsite wastewater system management practices throughout the County, and particularly in the Tomales Bay watershed. The East Shore area has been a high priority. Recently, the County applied for and received grant funds from the State Water Board to be used specifically to correct faulty septic systems along the East Shore area. Septic system problems are planned to be addressed as part of a multi-phased program, with the current grant funds being used for an initial project covering a minimum of 20 to 35 homes.

While the long-term goal for the Tomales Bay East Shore area is to achieve a suitable level of performance and improvement for all of the existing onsite wastewater systems in the project area, this project is limited in scope at this time due to the limited amount of available funding. Improvements for other properties will be addressed in subsequent phases as time and financial resources permit. Subsequent efforts will be guided by the approach and outcome of the first phase of work covered by this current project.

Site Cleanup at Proposed San Francisco Power Plant (Nancy Katyl)

In early April, Board staff approved two site cleanup documents for a proposed power plant site in southeast San Francisco. Specifically, we approved the Site Cleanup Plan and Risk Management Plan for this site following a 30-day public notice. The two plans call for excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil. They also require dust control measures, stormwater controls, and air monitoring during construction and redevelopment.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has proposed a 145-megawatt thermal plant on a site near 25th and Maryland Streets in the Potrero district of San Francisco. In early October 2006, the California Energy Commission approved the

SFPUC's proposal. The Commission's licensing conditions require the SFPUC to clean up and manage site contaminants in accordance with Water Board directives.

Following completion of soil cleanup later this year, the SFPUC will submit a Site Management Plan to address long-term site management. This plan will be subject to 30 day public review and comment period prior to staff approval. Board staff will continue to coordinate with Commission staff to assure that the project meets both agencies' requirements for site cleanup.

Cannery Court Brownfield Redevelopment / Hayward (Roger Papler)

On April 23, Board staff approved a cleanup and risk management plan for a former cannery site in Hayward. The 46-acre site is at 21-24 Cannery Court, west of downtown Hayward. This approval clears the way for a Brownfield redevelopment project involving 350 townhomes, recreational facilities, and a network of parks connecting the two. Board staff's approval came after a 30-day public comment period.

The key issue at the site involves potential public exposure to arsenic. The approved cleanup plan involves removing over 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and placing a layer of clean soil over the entire site. Cleanup activities are presently under way and should be completed within a month. Board staff anticipates issuing a no-further-action letter this summer.

Kaiser Permanente Redevelopment Project, San Leandro (Marcia Liao)

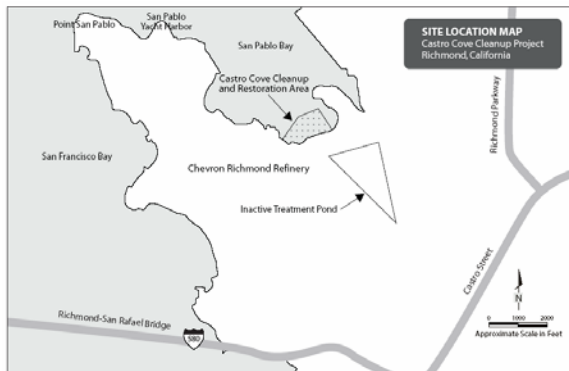
In late March, a Cal/EPA panel designated the Water Board to oversee cleanup at a new hospital site in San Leandro. Kaiser Permanente recently purchased a 63-acre site at 1701 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro, which they plan to redevelop into a medical center with complementary commercial/retail shops. The site was previously used for Lucky/Albertson's grocery distribution operations and agricultural row crop farming. Environmental concerns at the site include:

- Petroleum contamination at areas around 17 former underground storage tanks
- Potential chemical impacts from historical activities other than fuel storage (e.g. sumps)
- Groundwater solvent contamination from a large regional plume originating off site

Kaiser Permanente elected to use the Site Designation Process under the California Health and Safety Code to help coordinate agency oversight and redevelopment of the site (AB-2061 process). On March 29, Cal/EPA's Site Designation Committee designated the Water Board as the administering agency for the site investigation and cleanup, following a public hearing. We agreed to coordinate with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, our sister agency, which oversees cleanup of the large regional solvent plume mentioned earlier. Under the Site Designation Process, the administering agency issues a "certificate of completion" after active cleanup is satisfactorily completed. We traditionally seek Board approval prior to issuing certificates of approval. We will update you as necessary as our oversight proceeds.

Castro Cove Sediment Cleanup Underway (Beth Christian)

April marked the groundbreaking, or “mud” breaking to be more precise, which initiates cleanup of contaminated sediment in Castro Cove. The Board adopted Site Cleanup Requirements for the project last November. The site is located in a portion of San Pablo Bay immediately offshore from the Chevron Refinery in Richmond.



The approved remedial action calls for the removal of sediment with elevated PAH (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons) and mercury levels from a 20-acre portion of the cove. The project area will be isolated by a 2,700-foot-long sheet pile (temporary steel wall) enclosure that will be in place for approximately nine months. The installation of this enclosure, which began in April, is expected to take about 2 months.

Once the enclosure is completed, the sediment will be hydraulically dredged and pumped to an inactive but regulated treatment pond located on the Chevron Refinery property. This enclosure will have the added benefit of containing the resuspended sediments during removal and backfilling, which would prevent them from escaping to other parts of the cove and bay. After dewatering, sediments will be mixed with soils and a stabilizing agent such as cement. Finally, the surface of the inactive treatment pond area will undergo grading and a permanent cap will be installed.

Upon completion, the cove will be restored to its natural state. Removal of the sheet pile enclosure will allow the excavated area to fill with sediments naturally carried into the cove by tidal waters—a process referred to as natural accretion. The site will be monitored to ensure that vegetation reestablishes in wetland areas.

Preventing Mosquito Production in Stormwater Controls (Matt Graul)

On April 24, 2007, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (CCMVCD) hosted a workshop on Stormwater Management and Vector Controls. The purpose of the workshop was to educate municipal staff and stormwater program managers regarding the proper design and management of stormwater treatment controls to reduce and eliminate mosquito production. The meeting provided an excellent forum for discussion, collaboration, and coordination of efforts to reduce mosquito problems while providing adequate stormwater treatment. Through presentations and discussion, it was apparent

that there are many available options for stormwater treatment that do not create mosquito breeding habitat. The low impact development strategies and design guidelines presented in the Contra Cost Cleanwater Program's C3 Guidebook provide many options for treatment that will not increase mosquito production. The workshop was attended by representatives from Contra Costa municipalities, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, CCMVCD, California Department of Health Services, and the Board.

Napa River Pathogens TMDL Update (Tina Low)

Last November, the Board adopted a resolution to amend the Basin Plan to establish a TMDL for pathogens in the Napa River. The TMDL is currently being reviewed by State Board staff in preparation for an approval hearing anticipated in July. In the course of its review, State Board staff requested that minor, non-substantive changes be made to the language of the Basin Plan amendment in order to improve clarity and consistency. They include changing a term used in the Sources section from "Sanitary Sewer Lines" to "Sanitary Sewer Systems", to be consistent with how this source is described in the rest of the amendment, and providing clarification in the Load Allocations section distinguishing wastewater treatment facilities wasteload allocations from allocations for other source categories. I have made the requested minor changes, and have sent the revised Basin Plan amendment to State Board staff.

Linking Water and Land Use in the San Francisco Bay Area (Dale Hopkins)

On April 23, several Board staff attended a workshop sponsored by the Local Government Commission and the Bay Area Water Forum, which highlighted the connections between land use practices and water quality protection. This workshop, one of a series being held around the State under a Prop 50 grant from the State Board, was designed to showcase planning and design strategies that integrate the Ahwahnee Water Principles into local land use planning efforts. The workshop brought together approximately 75 city and county planners, elected officials, water districts, government agencies, and environmental groups to learn about local watershed-based approaches to land and water management and some of the specific tools being used in the Bay Area and beyond to encourage and carry out "smart" or "focused" growth that integrates residential and commercial development, transit-oriented communities, and natural resource protection. The focus was largely on infill and "brownfields" development and on ways to provide incentives to move away from traditional "greenfields" sprawl.

One example was the comprehensive water resource planning of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, whose mission has been redefined to be an "enhanced quality of life" for watershed residents, including their watershed stewardship plans and guidelines for waterway protection. Other examples are the implementation of the stream protection ordinance in the upper watersheds of the City of Oakland and the green urban design approach of the City of Emeryville for new and redevelopment projects. Speakers showed examples of stormwater design concepts such as green roofs, vegetated swales, "rain gardens", and use of native plantings in place of green turf to reduce irrigation and runoff. Several speakers mentioned the role of the Water Board's new and redevelopment requirements in the municipal stormwater permits in encouraging innovative practices and

collaborative problem solving by local municipalities and counties. Speakers also noted the need for strong State leadership in directing local planning and setting standards for infrastructure (possibly through grant funding requirements) as well as strong local support and tools such as local ordinances, design guidelines, and staff and contractor training programs.

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to suggest follow-up actions. Some of the suggestions included: the need to develop long-term regional funding for cities and counties, need for incentives for green development in stormwater permits, sharing best management practices among cities and counties, more discussion and collaboration between contractors and local agency staff, tours of Bay Area projects, and help for local agencies in meeting conflicting design and building requirements. There was also an acknowledgment that we need to be planning for the future by taking global warming projections into account, rather than continuing to react to past models for rainfall patterns and flood management. These and other issues will be part of a discussion at the next Bay Area Water Forum meeting to be held on May 21.

More information on the Ahwahnee Water Principles and sustainable growth practices is available at the Local Government Commission website www.lgc.org.

Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) (Alec Naugle, Michael Rochette)

The State Board's GAMA program is returning to the Bay Area in the next few weeks. This time sampling will include the Westside, San Mateo Plain, Santa Clara Valley, Niles Cone, East Bay Plain and San Francisco downtown groundwater basins. In '04-'05, GAMA visited the North Bay region (Napa, Sonoma & Petaluma) and the Fairfield-Suisun Valleys.

GAMA involves sampling water supply wells (community supply or larger) for traditional pollutants, age-dating parameters, water-quality indicators, and "emerging" contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products. What's unique is that GAMA uses ultra-low detection limits in the part-per-trillion range. For comparison, allowable drinking water standards for many toxic compounds are in the part-per-billion range. GAMA detection limits are ten to a thousand times more sensitive.

The U.S. Geological Society, which conducts the assessments and prepares reports under a State Board contract, held the Bay Area Study Area kick-off meeting on April 6 at the Santa Clara Valley Water District's office. The meeting focused on well selection strategy and special studies in localized areas. Board staff Alec Naugle and Michael Rochette attended along with Bay Area water suppliers and groundwater basin managers.

GAMA's goal is to provide a groundwater quality baseline in basins used for domestic or municipal drinking water supply. The U.S. Geological Society plans to do follow up sampling at three and ten-year intervals to evaluate trends after the baseline is established. In many ways, GAMA is the groundwater equivalent to the statewide Surface

Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and San Francisco Bay's Regional Monitoring Program (RMP).

As part of our strategic planning, we are considering ways to integrate GAMA's groundwater quality results with our Basin Plan, our cleanup work prioritization, and our decisions regarding conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water resource. This includes, for example, irrigation and percolation of recycled water, increased demand for underground water storage (i.e., groundwater banking and aquifer storage and recovery), and smart storm water infiltration/reuse for optimal storm water management, stream/bay protection, and groundwater basin protection.

We anticipate making a Board presentation next fall or winter when the latest GAMA results are available.

Additional information and available reports can be found at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama>
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/gamadocs.html>

Strategic Plan Update (Dyan Whyte)

Last month staff members Richard Looker, Keith Lichten, Michael Rochette, Janet O'Hara, Chuck Headlee, Alan Friedman, Kristen Boschen, Gina Kathuria, and Dyan Whyte attended the Water Board Strategic Planning Summit in Sacramento. The purpose of this summit was to solicit input from staff from the State and Regional Water Boards. Our Region's delegation felt that the summit was extremely valuable and we all left with a much better understanding about how the State Board works. The Summit was well organized and everyone's participation was strongly encouraged. State Board Chair Tam Doduc and Executive Director Dorothy Rice took part in all the sessions and made everyone feel welcome. In all, about 125 staff from the State and Regional Water Boards attended. State Board attendees included staff from the Divisions of Water Quality and Water Rights, Information Technology, and Administration.

In a "mind-mapping" exercise participants collaboratively identified trends affecting the Water Boards. Key trends that small groups later discussed in terms of priorities, management strategies, and performance measures included: global warming, increased urbanization and its effect on water quality and available supply, and emerging pollutants. Recurring themes from management strategies discussions included: improving how we monitor and assess the quality of waters so that we can tell compelling stories of our successes and challenges, and improving our communications and outreach so that the public better understands the work we do. Distribution of funds among the State and Regional Water Boards, communication between the State Board and Regional Water Boards, integrating water rights management with water quality management, managing information at the regional and state level, and staff retention and pay parity are a few of the hot topics that received a lot of attention.

The summit concluded with a discussion about the need for greater transparency in government generally, and a commitment to having our strategic planning process open and transparent. In the spirit of our agency's commitment to public involvement and participation, a

number of participants recommended that a focused group of attendees be recruited to work on the drafting of the strategic plan growing out of this exercise, and that all of participants be given an opportunity to comment on written drafts. The final strategic plan will be presented to the Water Quality Coordinating Committee for approval next fall.

The next step in the process is to seek local stakeholder input. On the afternoon of June 13, following our June Board meeting, we are scheduled to host a regional workshop at the State Building in Oakland. The public notice and agenda for this meeting will be distributed shortly.

Site Cleanup Program/DOD Roundtable (John Kaiser)

During the Week of May 21 our Board will be sponsoring the combined Site Cleanup Program and DOD Program Roundtables.

First day activities will involve a field trip to the Presidio in San Francisco, where participants will have an opportunity to view restoration activities that have been completed and others that are in progress. Among sites to be visited will be the Crissy Field wetlands restoration project site and several landfill areas, one of which lies atop a cliff like area above Baker Beach. The trip will conclude with a mid-span visit to the Golden Gate Bridge where a brief discussion will be held describing the dynamics of the Bay and various water quality issues affecting the Bay and what is being done to address them.

Besides the fact that it is one of the most beautiful areas in the country and of historical importance to the Bay Area, the Presidio was chosen for a field visit in that it is a unique hybrid of both programs where DOD monies have been transferred to the Presidio Trust, which participates in the Site Cleanup Program which reimburses the Water Board for its oversight activities. The Trust was created several years ago by Congress to deal with both cleanup and development issues at the Presidio with the idea that the Presidio will become economically self-sufficient.

Second day activities will involve a joint meeting at our office where the State Board and Regional Boards will have an opportunity to discuss various aspects of these programs. The concept of roundtables has been incorporated into the State Water Board's Strategic Plan for the purpose of improving program and policy coordination among the State and Regional Water Boards.

In-house Training

Our April staff training was on technical writing skills; the instructor is an outside trainer under contract to the State Board's training academy.

Staff Presentations and Outreach

Keith Roberson attended the Annual West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water, presented by the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS). The meeting was held March 19 – 22 in San Diego. The meeting included platform sessions on Risk Assessment, Vapor Intrusion, Sediment Remediation, Remediation of Heavy

Metals, Remediation of Gasoline Oxygenates, Advances in Phytoremediation, Ozone Barriers, Advanced Diagnostics for Site Closure, and Environmental Forensics. Dr. Roberson was co-author of a talk on the Use of Batch Tests to Establish Soil Cleanup Levels for Leaching Concerns.

On April 20, Mary Rose Cassa and Jill Marshall represented the Water Board at a semi-annual career fair at San Francisco State University. They spoke with about 60 science and engineering students, explaining the work we do and the process to obtain a State job, which is quite unlike the process in the private sector, and for many public sector jobs as well. Several dozen employers participated in the fair, representing wide range of jobs such as accountants, business analysts, and public sector jobs such as police and local, state, and federal government. Resumes collected at job fairs such as this are forwarded to the State Board to assist in recruiting for full-time positions. Contact information collected from students desiring part-time jobs as student interns in our office are made available to staff who are hiring student assistants.

Andree Breaux gave a presentation to at the University of San Francisco on "Restoration Ecology in the San Francisco Bay Region" on April 24.