STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

MEETING DATE: July 12, 2023

Item: 6

Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer's Report July 7, 2023

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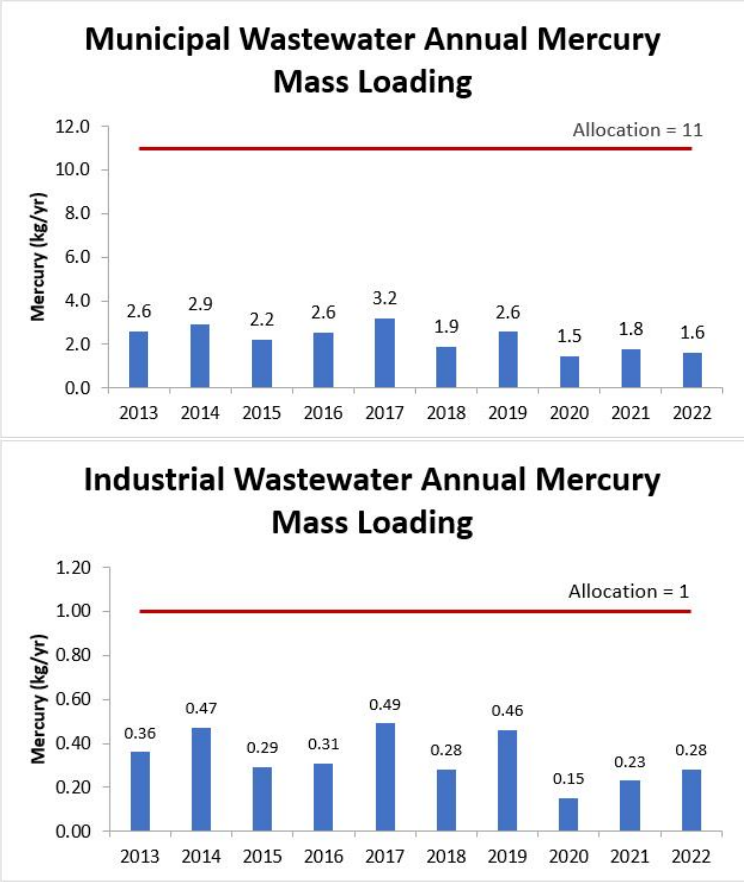
Wastewater Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls Loads Update (James Parrish)

San Francisco Bay is impaired by mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In 2006 and 2008, the Board adopted total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for mercury and PCBs, including wasteload allocations defining how much mercury and PCBs wastewater facilities can discharge to San Francisco Bay. The wasteload allocations are implemented through a regionwide watershed permit the Board reissued most recently in 2022. In 2022, mercury and PCBs loads in wastewater discharges continued to be well below the TMDL wasteload allocations.

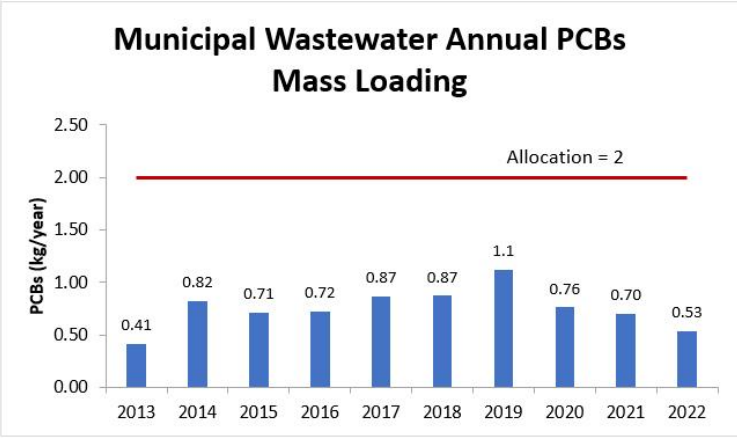
As shown in Figure 1, the municipal and industrial mercury loads were just 15 and 28 percent of the TMDL wasteload allocations. The 2022 municipal discharge load was slightly decreased, and the industrial discharge load was slightly increased, from the 2021 loads. Mercury loading remains consistent with discharges over the last decade.

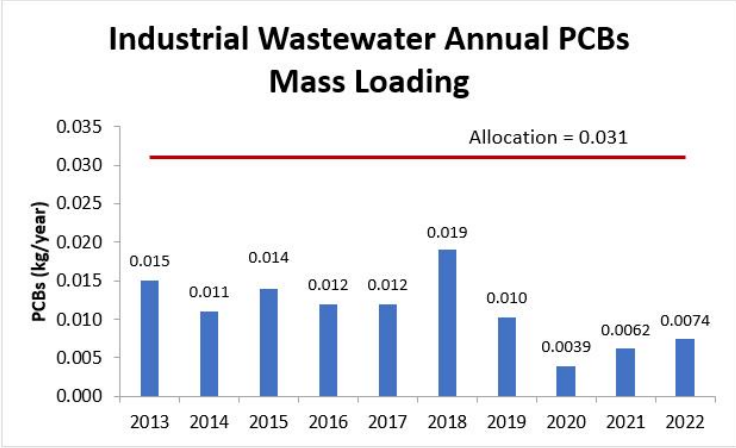
Figure 1. Municipal and Industrial Mercury Mass Loads from 2013 to 2022



As shown in Figure 2, the municipal and industrial PCBs loads were just 35 and 20 percent of the TMDL wasteload allocations. The 2022 municipal discharge load was slightly decreased, and the industrial discharge load was slightly increased, from the 2021 loads. PCBs loading remains consistent with discharges over the last decade.

Figure 2. Municipal and Industrial PCBs Mass Loads from 2013 to 2022





We expect some mercury and PCBs load variation between years because load calculations are based on samples collected at random times throughout the year. Thus, load fluctuations could be due to sample timing and frequency, analytical variability, or weather. For example, wet weather can increase loads by mobilizing solids in municipal collection systems or discharging contaminated runoff into industrial treatment ponds. Our Region received less rain in 2022 than it did in 2021, which could explain the slight decrease in municipal discharge loads noted above. Despite external factors that can affect load estimates, municipal and industrial wastewater facilities consistently discharge mercury and PCBs loads well below their TMDL wasteload allocations. These facilities also continue to engage in treatment, pretreatment, and pollution prevention efforts to control mercury and PCBs loads.

CalEPA Supplemental Vapor Intrusion Guidance (Nicole Fry and Ross Steenson)

On February 23, 2023, the Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released the Final Draft Supplemental Guidance: Screening and Evaluating Vapor Intrusion (Final Draft Supplemental VI Guidance, or "SVIG"). The SVIG is intended to improve vapor intrusion (VI) investigations and promote statewide consistency, and provides the following:

- A four-step process for building-specific VI assessments consisting of: (1) prioritizing buildings considering existing information and determining the best sampling approach, (2) screening using soil gas data, (3) indoor air investigation, and (4) evaluating the need to manage current and future VI risk.
- Use of U.S. EPA attenuation factors for screening.
- Allowance for alternative approaches when adequately justified.
- Description of lines of evidence and use of a multiple lines of evidence approach to evaluate data and information.
- Background on potential for volatile contaminant transport through sewers or other vapor conduits and how to evaluate that pathway.
- Instructions on how to upload data and information into the State Water Board's GeoTracker database to enable future analysis and refinement of the approach to evaluating VI.

The SVIG was developed between 2014 and 2023 by the CalEPA VI Workgroup. Members of the Workgroup consisted of staff from DTSC, State Water Board, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board (Nicole Fry and Ross Steenson), Los Angeles Regional Water Board, Santa Ana Regional Water Board, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The Draft SVIG was released on February 14, 2020, for public comment. The comment period closed on June 1, 2020. The Workgroup received a total of 575 comments via 71 individual letters/emails. The SVIG was revised to address the comments, and a separate response to comments document was released at the same time as the Final Draft. The latter is intended for use now.

On May 24, 2023, members of the CalEPA VI Workgroup held a four-hour web-based training for state and local regulators. Over 600 California regulators attended. As part of the training, Nicole Fry (Toxics Cleanup Division) presented on Risk Evaluation and Risk Management Decisions (Step 4 of the Four-Step Process) and Ross Steenson (Groundwater Protection Division) presented on four of the SVIG attachments: lines of evidence, petroleum-specific considerations, sewers and other vapor conduits, and groundwater as a line of evidence.

Later this summer, the Workgroup plans to host question and answer sessions for the public and regulated community. The Workgroup plans to record its presentations, which will be posted online and noticed to the public.

Partnering for Impact Conference (Bill Johnson)

On June 6, 2023, Eileen White, Bill Johnson, Robert Schlipf, and Sarah Acker attended "Partnering for Impact," a *California Water Environment Association* workshop. The goal of the workshop was to build stronger collaboration in the water sector among utilities, regulators, universities, and industries to promote national leadership, to drive innovation, to adopt solutions, and to enhance resilience and ecosystem health, while considering the needs of local economies. The water sector has a unique role to play in helping communities and society address pressing challenges, and revolutionary thinking, approaches, innovation, and leadership are needed to address these issues.

David Sedlak of U.C. Berkeley spoke on "Innovations in Pollutant Removal by Natural Systems." Other speakers addressed technology and risk presentation, leveraging data, and sustainable nutrient management. The afternoon focused on biosolids, including presentations on implementing SB 1383, bringing innovation to biosolids and organics markets, co-digestion challenges and benefits, and funding for biosolids and energy projects.

Community Engagement (Staff)

Meet the Regulators Hosted by the Air and Waste Management Association

On June 8, 2023, Eileen White, San Francisco Bay Water Board's Executive Officer, participated in a panel discussion with Andrew Fremier, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Executive Director, Philp Fine, Bay Area Air Quality Management District Executive Officer, and Todd Sax, Department of Toxics Control Deputy Director. Each of the panelists described the short-term and long-term goals for their agencies, their highest priorities, and biggest challenges. The panelists discussed their collaboration to address complex issues in the Bay Area such as climate change adaptation, sea level rise, racial equity, and environmental justice.

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Also on June 8, 2023, staff attended the celebration for the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. Executive Officer, Eileen White was the keynote speaker at the event and recognized Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's $68 million in improvements as addressing the Water Board's key priorities: enhancing water quality, increasing plant reliability, nutrient reduction, expansion of recycled water production and resiliency to address climate change. The District proactively invested in rehabilitating aging infrastructure, alleviating capacity constraints, preparing for new regulations and building climate change resiliency. Executive Officer White recognized the District as an industry leader in wastewater treatment, environmental stewardship and for protecting public health and water quality.

Groundbreaking Green Innovations

On May 12, 2023, Melissa Gunter, Water Resource Control Engineer, was a panelist in the Groundbreaking Green Innovations session at the Groundbreaking Women in Construction and Engineering Conference in San Francisco. The panel shared case studies and strategies on how developing sustainability and decarbonization directed goals implemented through green innovations can be tied to tangible construction plans and more environmentally impactful projects. Green innovations aim to minimize environmental damage while ensuring that natural resources are used effectively and sustainably. Melissa highlighted on-site water reuse, multi-benefit nature-based solutions such as stormwater low impact development, and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the value of building collaborative partnerships.

Staff Introductions (Eileen White)

Please welcome Andie Terman to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Andie joins the Planning and TMDL Division as a Scientific Aid. She'll be working in the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) on monitoring and assessment projects and helping to organize dredging data. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science and Resource Management from CSU Channel Islands. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, she worked on ecological restoration projects throughout the Los Angeles area and on Santa Rosa Island where she aided in site preparation, native plant propagation, and maintenance. Prior to joining the Water Board, she worked in an agricultural soil analysis lab and on a regenerative-organic farm. In her free time, she enjoys checking out the seasonal offerings at the farmers' market, baking with sourdough, and roaming Point Isabel with her cattle dog, Nellie.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Abigail Smith)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from May 19 through June 14, 2023. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Stanley Boulevard Emergency Repair	Pleasanton	Alameda	
San Francisco Bay Fiber Optic Cables	Brisbane San Leandro	San Mateo Alameda	✓
Martinez Refining Company 2024 Approach Trestle Repairs & Retrofit	Martinez	Contra Costa	✓
Storm Drain Improvements 14 Hall Drive	Orinda	Contra Costa	
Gleason Pond Desiltation and Restoration	Unincorporated	Contra Costa	
Trap Pond Desiltation and Restoration	Unincorporated	Contra Costa	
Mt. Diablo State Park North Gate Road Emergency Storm Repair	Walnut Creek	Contra Costa	
Walnut Estates Subdivision	Walnut Creek	Contra Costa	
Lagunitas Creek Sediment Reduction	Olema	Marin	
Creek Bank Slide Repair Miller Creek at Marinwood CSD	San Rafael	Marin	
Marina Vista Improvement Club Maintenance Dredging	San Rafael	Marin	✓
Karen Cleary Pile Replacement Dock Repair	Sausalito	Marin	✓
Anthem Winery Roadway Widening	Napa	Napa	
Napa River Outfall	Napa	Napa	✓

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Emergency Axios Winery Bridge	St. Helena	Napa	
Treasure Island Marina Replacement	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
Marine Science Institute Pile Repairs	Redwood City	San Mateo	✓
SFO Shoreline Protection System Maintenance Program	Unincorporated	San Mateo	✓
Stanford Alpine Road Emergency Tree Removal	Stanford	San Mateo Santa Clara	
Calabazas Creek Bank Rehabilitation	Cupertino	Santa Clara	
Earthen Dam Outfall IV	Travis Air Force Base	Solano	
Cal Maritime Overwater Geotechnical Surveys	Vallejo	Solano	✓
Watmaugh Road Bridge Replacement	Sonoma	Sonoma	