

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

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2026

ITEM: 4

Executive Officer's Report

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Executive Officer’s Report April 3, 2026

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Response to March 11, 2026 Radius Recycling Fire (Jerry Xu, Brian Thompson, James Parrish, and Aidan Cecchetti)

NPDES Division staff responded to a fire that occurred at Radius Recycling in West Oakland (formerly Schnitzer Steel) on March 11, 2026. Through our inspections, we determined that fire suppression water did not discharge into the community or to the estuary. Multiple CalEPA agencies responded to investigate concerns shared by members of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) about Radius Recycling's operations. Results of investigations are being shared with the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project staff.

We inspected the facility on March 11 and 13, 2026, and interviewed Radius Recycling staff about the incident. The fire started at approximately 10:00 a.m. within the facility's shredder building and was extinguished by around 10:20 a.m., from Radius Recycling's fire mitigation systems (sprinklers inside the building and water cannons outside) and response by the Oakland Fire Department, who arrived at 10:11 a.m. Less than 100,000 gallons of suppression water was used to extinguish the fire, and it flowed into on-site inlets, used to capture runoff, and was recirculated through the on-site treatment system. Radius Recycling sampled the captured suppression water and began discharging it to sanitary sewers on March 19, 2026, after determining that it met the local limits of East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) Pretreatment Program.

Water Board staff are participating in a West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project Collaborative in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 15, 2025, as discussed in the [February 2025](#) and [December 2025](#) Executive Officer Reports. We are committed to engaging with Radius Recycling, partner agencies, members of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project Collaborative, and the public to assess the extent of impacts caused, or posed, by metal shredding operations in West Oakland. CalEPA released a joint statement about the investigations of its agencies on March 18, 2026, and we will continue to collaborate transparently as a partner of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project Collaborative.

Second Interagency Summit on Advancing Restoration (Liz Morrison)

In October 2020, the Governor issued [Executive Order N-82-20](#) to “increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration and land management efforts by streamlining the State’s process to approve and facilitate these projects.” Soon after, the California Landscape Stewardship Network issued a report, [Cutting Green Tape: Regulatory Efficiencies for a Resilient Environment](#), that identified ways to improve permitting and funding efficiencies for ecological restoration and stewardship. To further this effort, the Governor's Office directed staff from the Water Boards and Department of Fish and Wildlife to meet and coordinate to further the recommendations found in the report. The first Advancing Restoration Interagency Summit was held on December 12-13, 2023, and included staff from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Regional Water Boards.

On February 27, 2026, the Secretaries of CalEPA and the Water Boards issued [Secretarial Memorandum: Institutionalizing Cutting Green Tape Improvements](#), outlining the last five years of accelerated environmental restoration and conservation and directing the agencies to continue to deliver environmental protection and restoration as effectively as possible.

The Second Advancing Restoration Interagency Summit was held March 10-11, 2026, in Santa Rosa, with several staff from the Watershed Division in attendance. The Summit assessed progress with intra- and interagency coordination to advance regulatory efficiencies and identified issues and themes in permitting and compliance to advance the pace, scale, and quality of restoration projects. At the end of the Summit, staff engaged directly with agency leadership, including Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the Natural Resources Agency, Director Meghan Hertel of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Chief Deputy Director Karen Mogus of the State Water Board, to convey the Summit’s key outcomes: the key needs, requests, and recommendations to continue advancing environmental restoration.



Figure 1: Cutting the Green Tape Summit March 11, 2026

Contra Costa County Shoreline Leadership Academy – Sea Level and Groundwater Rise at Contaminated Sites (Katie Kulha)

On the morning of March 21, 2026, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer Katie Kulha in the Toxics Cleanup Division presented to a group of Contra Costa County residents as part of the Shoreline Leadership Academy. The Academy is organized by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and is a six-month program for residents interested in learning more about shoreline resilience. Participants attend in-person tours of shoreline projects and receive training on a variety of topics including sea level rise, redevelopment, ecosystem health and resilience, and public access and recreation. Upon completion of the Academy, participants receive a \$1,800 stipend and have the opportunity to advise the County on the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan.

During the March 21 event, Katie Kulha presented an introduction to the Regional Water Board, gave an overview of the Site Cleanup Program, and outlined our strategy for evaluating the vulnerability of cleanup sites to sea level and groundwater rise. Two presenters from other organizations discussed different types of bioremediation that can be used to clean up contaminated sites. Approximately twenty students participated and the presenters received lots of good questions.

Community Engagement (Staff)

Groundwater Protection and Waste Containment Division staff attended the 3-day Global Waste Management Symposium held in Indian Wells, California, from February 23–25. The biennial symposium brings together regulators, researchers, consultants, and industry professionals from across the nation.

Staff attended a variety of technical sessions and panel discussions focused on key issues in waste management, including landfill liner and cover systems, leachate and liquids management, and emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) in landfill leachate and waste streams. Many of the presentations highlighted real-world case studies and research findings related to landfill operations and waste management practices.

The symposium was a valuable opportunity for staff to share experiences and exchange ideas about regulatory approaches and emerging issues, including with our Land Disposal Program counterparts from the State Water Resources Control Board and other regional water boards. The information gained will help support our work overseeing land disposal facilities in the region.

Staff Updates (Eileen M. White)



Water Resource Control Engineer Vic Pal is retiring after more than 34 years of service supporting the Regional Water Board's cleanup and industrial stormwater programs. Vic earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and began his career with the Regional Water Board shortly thereafter.

Vic has managed underground storage tank cases as well as soil and groundwater cleanups across San Francisco, San Mateo, and Contra Costa counties and with the Industrial Stormwater Program overseeing compliance with stormwater permit requirements for industrial facilities. He has also been responsible for 25 landfills and refinery facilities, including the Martinez Renewable Fuels Facility for which the Board adopted updated waste discharge requirements in February 2026.

Over the years, Vic has contributed to the cleanup and redevelopment of several large, high-profile sites including the Brisbane Baylands project, a former rail yard being transitioned to a mixed-use development with up to 4,800 housing units, the multi-billion-dollar biotech campus at the former Oyster Point Landfill, and a major residential apartment community in Santa Clara.

Another standout project in his career was the Mission Bay redevelopment in San Francisco. The Water Board served as the lead agency for environmental cleanup at the 303-acre site, and Vic spent nearly four years focused on site characterization, remedy development, and stakeholder engagement for the former rail yard and petroleum pipeline areas. His work ultimately led to the issuance of a Certificate of Completion under AB 2061, certifying that all cleanup objectives were met.

One of the things Vic is most proud of is seeing the tangible results of his work, particularly those that supported cleanup and revitalization in disadvantaged communities like those in Richmond and East Palo Alto.

Vic has earned the trust and respect of colleagues, the regulated community, and stakeholders alike. We are grateful for his long-standing service and contributions, and we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.



Also, after 39 years of service at the Regional Water Board, John Wolfenden, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in the Toxics Cleanup Division, is retiring. John earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware and began working at the Regional Water Board in the South Bay Toxics Division.

John oversaw several federal Superfund cases and provided leadership in establishing the framework for cleanup orders that is still used to this day. He wrote one of the first multi-party administrative civil liability complaints for failure to submit a groundwater investigation workplan. John

also wrote the first version of the sediment screening criteria and testing requirements for wetland creation and upland beneficial reuse of dredged material.

As Section Leader in the NPDES Division, John initiated an internal watershed integration group with the managers from the NPDES, Watershed, and Planning Divisions to coordinate across the region as a watershed-wide approach became more common throughout the State.

John later transferred to the Toxics Cleanup Division as a Section Leader where he has been for the last 26 years. During this time, he emphasized operational streamlining and assisted in hiring many of the staff while emphasizing the professional development of staff and organizational success.

John has been a staunch advocate for workforce planning and development throughout our organization and became the coordinator for the Regional leadership learning and development program serving in that volunteer role for 25 years. He prepared and presented many leadership training courses, organized semiannual in-house leadership gatherings, and initiated leadership development groups for all managers.

We congratulate John for his long-standing service and contributions, and we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and James Parrish)

The following tables show the proposed and settled enforcement actions since our last report. As the proposed settlements are pending and could come before the Board, ex parte communications are not allowed. Please refer to the [Pending Enforcement Liabilities and Penalties](#) webpage for more information on the details of the alleged violation and proposed settlement.

Proposed Settlements

The following have been noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comments are received by the deadline, the Executive Officer will sign the orders implementing these settlements.

Discharger	Violation(s)	Proposed Penalty	Comment Deadline
City of Sunnyvale	Discharge limit violations	\$36,000 ¹	April 11, 2026
Sobrato Organization	Discharge limit violations	\$15,000	April 17, 2026
Delta Diablo	Unauthorized discharge	\$5,557,700 ²	April 23, 2026

- 1 \$25,500 of this penalty amount supplements Regional Monitoring Program studies. The Regional Monitoring Program is managed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute to collect water quality information in support of management decisions to restore and protect beneficial uses of the Region's waters.
- 2 \$4,330,000 of this penalty amount would fund the Shore Acres Force Main Repair Project, which would add a parallel 0.9-mile permanent force main connecting to the Shore Acres Pump Station. This would replace the existing Shores Acre Pump Station force main, whose structural integrity failed, causing the unauthorized discharge. \$1,039,490 of this penalty would fund the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Enhancements Project, which would retrofit Delta Diablo's treatment plant outfall diffuser ports with check valves to reduce sediment and aquatic organism capture, improve final effluent mixing, and reduce flow reversal at the outfall.

Settled Actions

On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following settlements:

Discharger	Violation(s)	Imposed Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
City of Millbrae	Discharge limit violations	\$6,000	-
Six Flags Entertainment Corporation and Fireworks & Stage FX America, LLC	Unauthorized discharge	\$10,000	-
SUMCO Phoenix Corporation	Discharge limit violations	\$3,000	-
City and County of San Francisco	Discharge limit violations	\$3,000	\$3,000 ¹
Intuitive Surgical, Inc.	Discharge limit violations	\$6,000	-
IQHQ ELCO Yards LP ²	Discharge limit violations	\$18,000	-
IQHQ ELCO Yards LP ²	Discharge limit violations	\$3,000	-
Napa Sanitation District	Discharge limit violations	\$3,000	\$3,000 ¹
Cedar Fair Entertainment Company	Discharge limit violations	\$6,000	-
Chevron Environmental Management Company	Discharge limit violations	\$3,000	-

1 This penalty amount supplements Regional Monitoring Program studies.

2 The discharger appears twice in this table because it accrued violations at two facilities. These violations were settled as two separate matters.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Joseph Martinez)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from January 15 through March 11, 2026. An "X" 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
San Francisco Bay Trail Emergency Erosion Control Project Hayward Shoreline	Hayward	Alameda	X
FMC Willow (Extra One Acre) Project	Newark	Alameda	
Grand Park Project	Newark	Alameda	
Green Valley Creek Tributary, Channel Restoration	Alamo	Contra Costa	
Pinehurst Road Culvert Repair Project	Canyon	Contra Costa	
04-22914 Interstate 680-State Route 4 Interchange Improvements Project - Phases 2A and 4	Multiple	Contra Costa	
Richmond Long Wharf Shoreline - Exploratory Potholing	Richmond	Contra Costa	X
Lind Marine Sand Mining Middle Ground		Contra Costa	X
Suisun Associates Sand Mining Within Suisun Channel		Contra Costa	X
Bel Marin Keys Navigation Locks and Marine Infrastructure Repairs	Unincorporated	Marin	X
Anthem Winery Roadway Widening Project	Napa	Napa	
Martin Marietta Sand Mining Operations: Central Bay	San Francisco	San Francisco	X
Brisbane Marina and Entrance Channel Maintenance Dredging Project	Brisbane	San Mateo	X
Tartan Trail Road Bridge Emergency Repair Project	Hillsborough	San Mateo	
Tunitas Creek Road Mile 2.9 Emergency Slip-out Repair	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
Crystal Springs Road Emergency Culvert Repair	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
Pond A18 South Gate Structure Repair Project	San Jose	Santa Clara	X

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Prospect Culvert Emergency Repair	Unincorporated	Santa Clara	
Port of Benicia (AMPORTS) Dredging	Benicia	Solano	X
Sonoma County 2026 Pavement Preservation Program (PPP)	Multiple	Sonoma	
Halo Ranch Mitigation Bank Restoration Project	Petaluma	Sonoma	
WETA Alameda Seaplane Lagoon Universal Charging Float	Alameda	Alameda	X
Encinal Yacht Club Crane Foundation Replacement	Alameda	Alameda	X
Maintenance Desilting of Lower Alameda Creek (Zone 5, Line A) Fish Ladder and Resting Pool	Fremont	Alameda	
Arroyo Road Trail Project	Livermore	Alameda	
Bryan Ranch Creekside Bank Repair	Alamo	Contra Costa	
FSRE CCR Industrial Project	Concord	Contra Costa	
Group 3 Storm Drain Lining Project	Orinda	Contra Costa	
Bancroft Gardens II	Pittsburg	Contra Costa	
2024 Motems Audit Repairs Project	Rodeo	Contra Costa	X
Von Bothner Project, Dock, Piles plus Ramp Replacement	Belvedere	Marin	X
Alder Tree Removal at Point Reyes HQ	Pt. Reyes Station	Marin	
Red And White Fleet (RWF) Waterside Improvement Project	San Francisco	San Francisco	X

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Colma Creek Flood Control Maintenance Project	Colma	San Mateo	
WETA SSF Ferry Terminal & Oyster Point Marina Dredging	South San Francisco	San Mateo	X
Paulin Crossing and Landslide Repair Project	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
Pond 22 Permanente Creek Restoration Project	Cupertino	Santa Clara	
Fairground Channel Drainage Project	Vallejo	Solano	