

California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment San Francisco Region Advisory Workshop Notes

Monday, September 23, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The goal of this workshop is to share the draft monitoring plan to date, get feedback on revisions from Community-Based Organizations and invited guests, and prepare for 2025 workshops.

Attendees

Advisory Workshop Attendees:

- Janet Johnson, Richmond Shoreline Alliance
- Carolyn Horne-Wesley, Sarah's Soft Landing
- LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible

Invited Guests:

- Jay Davis & Martin Trinh, San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
- Autumn Bonnema, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML)
- Duyen Kauffman, Biomonitoring California & CA Dept. of Public Health
- Luisa Valiela, US EPA Region 9
- Arti Kundu, County of Marin Environmental Health Services

Realignment Team:

- SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Lead
 - Anna Holder, State Board Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)
- San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (R2)
 - Kevin Lunde, TMDL & Basin Planning Section Supervisor
 - Gerardo Martinez, TMDL & Basin Planning Section
 - Kristina Yoshida, SWAMP Coordinator
- California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)
 - Ali Dunn & Tessa Fojut, SWAMP Supervisors
 - Elena Suglia, CA Sea Grant Fellow

Welcome & Grounding

The Realignment Team welcomed all to the Community-Based Organization (CBO)-only San Francisco Region Advisory Workshop.

Attendees discussed and approved meeting agreements: to listen, be constructive, be engaged, and be respectful of each other's time.

Overview of Monitoring Plan & Feedback Received

The Realignment Team shared a refresher of the Realignment process thus far, an overview of the draft Monitoring Plan and summarized feedback that has been received, which included:

- Improvements to grammar, formatting, flow of document
- Added species that are most likely to be caught at bay locations
- Clarification of OEHHA Advisory Development Process

Monitoring Plan Discussion & Prioritization in Key Tables

Attendees reviewed three key tables in the monitoring plan and refined priority recommendations for each table.

Locations of Interest

Attendees recommended the following revisions to the location priority classifications:

- North Bay:
 - Keep Tomales Bay and San Rafael Bay / Canal in the "WILL BE SAMPLED" classification.
 - List "BACKUP SITES" in order of priority, starting with: Vallejo, Carquinez Strait, Benicia, San Pablo Bay, Napa River.
 - Add Lagunitas Creek to the list of "BACKUP SITES", as the County of Marin regularly samples this location, which regularly has high instances of norovirus in water quality samples.
- East Bay:
 - More than 2 locations should be sampled in the East Bay since it is a densely populated area with heavy industrial use.
 - Keep Point Richmond/Richmond Marina and Hayward Shoreline in the "WILL BE SAMPLED" classification.
 - The Point Richmond/Richmond Marina locations should be: fishing pier at base of Sante Fe Channel, Point Richmond pier, Meeker Slough.
 - Add Keller Beach to the list of "BACKUP SITES".

- South Bay:
 - Recommend not monitoring in the South Bay in 2025, and in the future conduct more outreach with other South Bay communities before monitoring.
 - Remove Coyote Creek from the “WILL BE SAMPLED” list, and conduct more thorough outreach to South Bay communities in the future to determine what priority locations would be appropriate.
 - Future locations to consider once confirmed by South Bay communities: Alviso Slough, Dumbarton Bridge.
- Peninsula:
 - Keep East Palo Alto Shoreline in the “WILL BE SAMPLED” classification, but move it to the South Bay Zone.
 - Remove Peninsula zone altogether since current locations are really part of either the South Bay or San Francisco zones, and the US EPA data that does exist for the bay side of the Peninsula indicates that there is less concern than other zones when it comes to bioaccumulation of contaminants in fish or shellfish.
- San Francisco:
 - Keep Hunters and Pier 39 Point in the “WILL BE SAMPLED” classification.
 - Combine Hunters Point and Candlestick Park since they are so close together.

Attendees also noted:

- The County of Marin has been conducting water quality testing at Dillon Beach for the past six years and has not seen significant water quality issues.
- The US EPA recently announced that the remediation of DDT and dieldrin at [The United Heckathorn Superfund Site](#), which is located in the Lauritzen Channel of the Richmond Harbor, has failed and is currently investigating additional cleanup options to address this issue.
- A primary contaminant at the [Zeneca Site](#), which is located in the southeast Richmond shoreline, is arsenic.
- Concerns with recent [CalEnviroScreen](#) updates as they have removed highly contaminated areas as being listed as areas of concern, among other issues, which do not align with the lived experiences of communities in those areas.

Species of Interest

Attendees recommended the following revisions to the species priority classifications:

- Consider “Spotted monkey fish” another common name for “Monkeyface prickleback” and remove “Spotted monkey fish” from the list to reduce duplication and confusion.
- Add the following species to the list of “PRIMARY TARGET SPECIES”: Monkeyface prickleback, plainfin midshipman.

Pollutants of Interest

Attendees recommended the following revisions to the pollutant priority classifications:

- Keep Mercury, Selenium, PCBs, and PFASs in the “WILL BE SAMPLED” classification for all locations.
- Add DDT and Arsenic to the “WILL BE ANALYZED” list, for select East Bay locations.
- List “BACKUP ANALYSES” in order of priority, starting with: OC Pesticides, PBDEs, and Arsenic.

Next Steps, Review Action Items, Adjourn

Realignment Team

- Initiate honorarium process for Advisory Workshop Attendees
- Share the following with Advisory Workshop Attendees for review and feedback:
 - Workshop Summary Notes (including slides for reference)
 - Create 2025 Availability Poll (to send out ~ Feb 2025)
- Add new contacts to email list & future meeting invites
- Post finalized Notes on [Realignment Page](#)
- Finalize, share & implement the 2025 Monitoring Plan

Advisory Workshop Attendees

- Respond to email regarding honorarium process
- Review and provide feedback on Workshop Notes and 2025 Availability Poll
- Initiate introductions for those who you would like to be included in future Realignment conversations or send contact information to anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov and the Realignment Team will reach out and cc recommenders.