

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Meeting
December 15, 2021
Notes by Gayle Tupper

1. Roll call and Introductions. Attendance: McGrath (chair), Hacker, Young, Gunther, Battey. Kissinger absent. Executive Officer (EO) Montgomery and other staff.
2. Public Forum. Marinwood neighborhood group speakers regarding a site cleanup. Chair McGrath notes this is a longstanding problem working to make progress on and notes appreciation for neighborhood groups. Multiple speakers disappointed in ongoing delays.
3. 2021 Dr. Teng Chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award. Presentation to California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) for leadership in pollution prevention. All speakers note the preference for prevention instead of treatment. CASA is awarded for its work on keeping wipes out of the sewer system and preventing sewer overflows.

4. Minutes of November 10, 2021 meeting. No changes recommended by staff.
Unanimous approval.

5. Chair, Board Member and EO reports.

State Board member/liaison Sean Maguire.

- Drought update – still in drought, a long way to go. Request 15% water saving.
- Bay/Delta Water Quality Control Plan, will have its first advance since 1995 Plan.
- Workshop on microplastics. A year ago adopted definition of microplastic. Now have an update on status of technology and lab capabilities to test for microplastics. Initial testing regime will be mostly for drinking water sources.

Battey: Half Moon Bay flooding last few days, close to 10" rain, local reservoirs filling.

Chair McGrath.

- He and EO Montgomery met with Margaret Bruce about San Francisquito Creek on the Peninsula.
- Denise Kadara, chair of Central Valley RWQCB, is working on arsenic in groundwater, and how to approach this for drinking water supplies.
- Placement of material in Bay for habitat restoration years ago. Results are exceeding expectations. This brought science into the restoration process.

EO Report. Michael Montgomery.

- New EPA Region 9 Administrator is Martha Guzman.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide lots more money for water infrastructure, with doubling of grants for wastewater, and money for stormwater and brownfields.
- The Walnut Creek Watershed restoration went from concept to design to completion. Residents will see resilience to sea level rise in future due to this work started 30 years earlier. This is a remarkable model for expanding flood protection.

Swear in Speakers.

6. Uncontested Items

A. Crockett Cogeneration LLP, Crockett Cogeneration Plant, Crockett, Contra Costa County. Reissuance of NPDES Permit.

Natural gas facility, discharge is blowdown water from cogeneration facility.

B. Mt. View Sanitary District, Wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system, Martinez, Contra Costa County

WWTP 1.3 MGD, discharge to wetlands. This is a long-term wetland (marsh) discharge. Board members discussed including water recycling opportunities in the fact sheets for each permit.

C. Rescission of Certain Individual Orders Upon the Regulated Facilities' Enrollment under the SWRCB Order, General WDR for Small Domestic Wastewater Discharge Systems. This eliminates individual orders, rolls into State Water Board order, is a housekeeping item, efficient and may reduce dischargers' costs.

Unanimous approval of uncontested calendar.

NPDES Permits

7. Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company, Tesoro Martinez Facility, Martinez, Contra Costa County- Reissuance of NPDES Permit.

Uncontested item. It is a separate item to describe transitioning from petroleum refining to renewable diesel facility. Will process crop-based oils and other fats into diesel. Renewable diesel does not equal biodiesel, which must be blended with other fuels. Renewable diesel can be directly used. Phase 1 starts in 2022.

EPA has not established specific regulations for this type of facility - need technology-based limits. This permit has limits for pH, BOD, TSS, and O&G, NH3, copper, and cyanide, and water-quality-based limits based on Tesoro's projections. This process will have less discharge water volume and less pollutant loading. They will review performance data during this 5-year permit to establish the following permit.

This business model might be repeated at other facilities. Diesel consumption in CA continues to rise, and there is pressure from stakeholders to become green. This will take a waste and convert it to a product, which keeps it from going to a landfill.

Unanimous approval of staff recommendation.

8. Amendment of Monitoring and Reporting Provisions for Municipal Wastewater Dischargers – Amendment of Wastewater Discharge Permits.

Blanket amendment for pollutants that require less monitoring, savings are shifted to other targeted pollutants. The RWQCB worked with BACWA (Bay Area Clean Water Agencies) on this. BACWA is very proactive, contributes more resources when necessary.

Unanimous approval.

Informational Item

9. California Department of Transportation, Update on the Department's Clean California Program and Compliance with Cease and Desist Order (CDO) Implementing Trash Requirements of the Statewide Stormwater Permit, as amended.

RWQCB adopted a CDO in 2019 because CalTrans was not in compliance. It requires compliance by 2030, with periodic updates, workplans, feasibility studies, benchmarks.

CalTrans has 25,000 acres of right of way in this region. CDO requires structural trash devices and enhanced maintenance and vegetation controls. Benchmarks are due in 2022 and beyond of feasible trash control options.

CalTrans gave a presentation with updates on progress and benchmarks, most to be met with structural devices. Clean CA Program brings more money for this work, including better street sweeping to intercept trash before it gets to storm system. Other source control includes public ed, cleanup of illegal dumpsites, working with unsheltered homesite needs. Clean CA Program is almost \$300 million grants program. Litter abatement, create 11,000 jobs, create sustainable landscapes. Working on beautification, including local grants.

Public Comments: Save The Bay says CalTrans has done few controls, does not show it is likely to meet requirements. Urge RWQCB to require compliance via proven methods.

EO: Has seen significant progress on local projects, staff is tracking closely.

Enforcement

10. Amendment of Cease and Desist Order for California Department of Transportation. Observer not present for this vote, will update any highlights from official meeting minutes.

Info Item.

Staff gave updates about current projects and priorities. These include:

- Watershed program with a mapping tool that shifts focus to disadvantaged areas impacted by pollution.
- Stream & wetland protection, stream maintenance programs
- Climate change adaptation, including SFO.
- Land application of biosolids.
- Recycled water for flushing.
- Wastewater program oversees about 80 permits, noted requirements and enforcement.
- Groundwater and cleanup. See drinking water wells with PFAS, and other volatile chemicals such as dry cleaning solvents. Goal is to ensure cleanups are timely.

Board members were extremely appreciative of this extraordinary amount of work.

Finished agenda at 2:20 pm.

No January meeting, Next meeting is Feb, 9, 2022.