

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *September 2012*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2012

WEBSITE: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Chevron Refinery Fire (Alan D. Friedman)	1
Cleanup of Hangar 1 at Moffett Field (Elizabeth Wells)	2
Maritime Administration Tests New Hull Cleaning Technique (David Elias and Bill Johnson) ...	3
Pacific Commons Wetland Preserve a Success (Dale Bowyer and Andree Greenberg)	3
Watershed Friendly Landscaping Workshop (A.L. Riley)	4
Pesticide Applicators IPM Outreach (Jan O'Hara)	4
San Francisco Pier 70 Brownfield Restoration (Mark Johnson)	5
Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Chuck Headlee)	6
In-house Training	6
Staff Presentations	7
Enforcement	8

Chevron Refinery Fire (Alan D. Friedman)

On the evening of August 6, a large fire broke out at the Chevron Refinery in Richmond. The fire began after a leak of hydrocarbon vapors ignited at the refinery's Crude Unit No. 4, which heats incoming crude oil prior to refining it into gasoline and other final products. The fire was extinguished several hours later, after sending a large cloud of smoke over the surrounding communities. A much smaller, controlled fire continued for several days after the initial fire until the crude unit was safe to turn off. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Of most interest to the Water Board was the fate of the large volume of water used to fight the fire. The storage and processing areas of the refinery, where the fire occurred, are plumbed to the refinery's wastewater treatment system so that none of the water that drained from the fire was discharged directly to the Bay. The treatment system is designed to treat the normal volume of refinery process wastewater as well as the much larger volumes of stormwater generated at the refinery, so the extra flow of water from the fire did not cause any problem to

the treatment system. At the request of Board staff, the refinery performed additional chemical and toxicity testing of the water entering and leaving the treatment plant. There were no violations of Chevron's NPDES discharge permit during this period of time.

There was minor fire damage to the cover of a nearby closed onsite landfill and to its irrigation system, but this should not pose any problems in maintaining complete waste containment. The repairs to the crude unit are expected to take several months, and Chevron is determining what steps it will take to continue the operation of the refinery. In the meantime, Chevron expects to remain in compliance with all its Board-issued orders.

Cleanup of Hangar 1 at Moffett Field (Elizabeth Wells)

The U.S. Navy has completed removal of the siding from the historic Hangar 1 at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field in Mountain View. The roof and siding needed to be removed because they contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and asbestos, which were eroding and being deposited in an onsite stormwater retention pond known as Site 25. Additional work the Navy will be doing includes completing the protective coating on the hangar frame (to encapsulate lead- and PCB-contaminated paint), excavating PCB-contaminated soil outside the hangar, sealing clamshell door motors, cleaning door tracks and a few interior areas, and excavating contaminated sediment at Site 25. The excavation must take into account ponded water, vegetation removal, and protection of wildlife (including the salt marsh harvest mouse). Following excavation, the Navy will replant vegetation and monitor site restoration progress.



Photo 2a. Hangar 1 before siding removal.



Photo 2b. Hangar 1 with more than half the siding removed.



Photo 2c. Site 25 in August 2012, before excavation started (looking south, Hangar 1 and NASA wind tunnel in background).

Maritime Administration Tests New Hull Cleaning Technique (David Elias and Bill Johnson)

In July, the U.S. Maritime Administration (Marad) tested a new in-water hull cleaning (known as “scamping”) device designed to remove bio-fouling materials, including invasive species, from the hulls of large vessels. The device is also intended to minimize the discharge of soluble copper and zinc (from anti-fouling hull coatings) to San Francisco Bay. The system, which consists of a brushing device, vacuum pumps, and several filtration stages, successfully reduced soluble copper in the scamping discharge from about 1,800 parts per billion (ppb) to about 90 ppb. It reduced soluble zinc from about 1,300 ppb to about 500 ppb. Marad plans a followup test to assess how quickly copper and zinc concentrations dissipate in the Bay when scamping is underway. If the results demonstrate acceptable metal reductions, we may propose that the Water Board consider a general NPDES discharge permit for this new scamping technology and other effective technologies.

Pacific Commons Wetland Preserve a Success (Dale Bowyer and Andree Greenberg)

Pacific Commons is a 305-acre business and commercial park that was developed by Catellus (now known as Prologis) on a 768-acre parcel near the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont. The Water Board adopted waste discharge requirements for the development in 1999 that permitted Prologis to fill a limited number of vernal pools, a rare type of wetlands, on a portion of the parcel while requiring Prologis to create new vernal pools and seasonal wetlands on the same parcel under a conservation agreement. These vernal pools were small potholes that seasonally ponded and dried completely later in the year. They contained endangered plants and animals unique to this habitat including California Goldfields, a small flowering plant, and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The eggs or cysts for the tadpole shrimp have adapted to survive dry spells of up to 20 years, which gives an inkling of how long droughts may last in California!

To satisfy the Board’s mitigation requirements, Prologis set aside a large preserve on the remaining 444 acres of the parcel and created over 77 acres of new vernal pools and seasonal

wetlands. The Board's 1999 requirements mandated performance monitoring of this preserve for 10 years after mitigation creation. I am happy to announce that we have notified Prologis that the preserve has met all performance objectives required by the Board. Prologis has deeded the preserve to the Refuge and endowed its ongoing maintenance in perpetuity.

Watershed Friendly Landscaping Workshop (A.L. Riley)

In June, we cosponsored a workshop with the San Francisco Bay Estuary Project, StopWaste.Org, and the Watershed Project on "Landscaping For The Watershed." The workshop was intended to address the need for continuing education on how to best design stream restoration and enhancement projects to protect water quality. A.L. Riley of Board staff assisted by organizing the workshop and presenting water quality and habitat restoration design guidelines, many of which are based on thirty years of project monitoring results. The workshop also covered landscaping approaches for low impact development and stormwater projects, water efficient small scale water supply projects, and trash monitoring.

Demand for the workshop exceeded space limitations, as over ninety participants attended. Presenters included staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Point Reyes Bird Observatory Science Conservation, StopWaste.org, the Watershed Project, Prunuske-Chatham, Inc., the Oakland Rain Barrel Program, and the Planning Center.

Pesticide Applicators IPM Outreach (Jan O'Hara)

The Pesticide Applicators Professional Association (PAPA) offers seminars throughout California for licensed pesticide applicators, primarily landscapers. These seminars fulfill continuing education credits required by the State's Department of Pesticide Regulation. As part of implementing the Water Board-adopted pesticide toxicity TMDL, we requested that PAPA focus several of its Bay Area seminars on integrated pest management. Integrated pest management, otherwise known as IPM, is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests through techniques such as biological control, physical changes to the habitat (e.g., caulking entry points or removing nesting areas), modification of cultural practices (e.g., cleaning or removing food sources), and use of resistant plant varieties. By applying IPM techniques, pesticides need only be used as a last resort when non-chemical techniques are not effective in reducing pests to an acceptable level.

PAPA now offers three all-IPM seminars in the Bay Area per year. The first was in San Jose in February, the second was in San Ramon in August, and the third will be in Petaluma on November 6. At each of these seminars, Board staff provides a presentation on pesticide impacts on water quality and the benefits of the IPM approach. About 250 pesticide professionals have attended the seminars and feedback has been highly positive thus far. The Board's Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requires permittees to conduct outreach on methods to reduce pesticide use, which they can now do, in part, by promoting these seminars.

San Francisco Pier 70 Brownfield Restoration (Mark Johnson)

In early August, Water Board staff approved a cleanup plan for Pier 70 in San Francisco. Pier 70 is located on San Francisco's southeastern waterfront, south of both the Giants' AT&T Park and the Mission Bay redevelopment project (see Photo 7a). The Pier 70 site covers about 65 acres and is home to a large collection of mostly idle industrial buildings dating back to the 1880s. Many of these buildings were related to ship building and repair and are a significant part of San Francisco's history.

Site cleanup is integral to the Port of San Francisco's plans to redevelop this mostly-disused maritime complex. The Port owns the site and will oversee an estimated \$2 billion redevelopment, based on a City-approved master plan. The master plan includes the following elements:

- 1) Reuse and rehabilitate historic structures to be recognized as part of a National Register-listed historic district.
- 2) Create new shoreline parks and open space.
- 3) Integrate new commercial, open space and, potentially, residential development with the existing BAE Systems onsite ship repair and dry dock facility.
- 4) Develop land uses that respect the historic character and promote economic development.

Additional information about the Pier 70 project, including photos of historic buildings may be found at www.sfport.com/pier70.

Past maritime uses at Pier 70 have caused some pollution of upland soils and near-shore sediments. Upland soils have been impacted by metals, petroleum, poly-nuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and, in localized areas, PCBs. The Port's cleanup plan addresses the upland area; the near-shore sediments will be addressed separately. The cleanup plan as approved calls for durable covers (capping), institutional controls, monitoring, and maintenance activities to mitigate risks associated with upland soil pollution. The institutional controls would be in the form of a deed restriction and associated risk management plan (RMP). The RMP will be developed and used to guide site management needs before, during, and after development to ensure human health and environmental protection.

Board staff provided opportunities for public comment prior to approving the cleanup plan. We distributed a fact sheet to nearby residents and interested parties, held a community meeting near the site, and reviewed and responded to comments received during the 30-day comment period. The Port revised its cleanup plan in response to comments prior to approval.

Board staff will be working with the Port and developers over the next several months to create an appropriate RMP for the site. We will keep you informed of significant news on this important Brownfield site.



Photo 7a. Aerial photo of Pier 70.

Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Chuck Headlee)

The State Water Board recently approved a policy directing all Regional Water Boards and local oversight agencies to close low-threat petroleum underground storage tank (UST) cases. The new policy is intended to bring greater consistency to the statewide UST program by establishing low-threat closure criteria and directing oversight agencies to close UST cases that meet the criteria, or provide justification for continued oversight.

The State Board's resolution adopting the policy requires UST oversight agencies to review all of their cases to see if they meet the low-threat case closure criteria. Cases that meet the criteria are expected to be closed promptly. If a case does not meet the low-threat closure criteria then the oversight agency must identify the issues and conditions that impede closure. We have been approving low-threat closures of UST cases for over 15 years, and our approach is very similar to that specified in the State Board's policy. Therefore, we do not expect that the policy will have a significant effect on the rate of UST case closures by our office.

Our UST program manager, Chuck Headlee, has taken a leadership role in helping develop a new interactive, online Geotracker database page to track policy implementation. We expect that this interactive page will be ready for use in early September.

In-house Training

Our staff training in August focused on MS Outlook, the new (for us) email program all State agencies are now using. We have no training scheduled in September. Brownbag seminars included an August 22 session by author Beth Terry on her book, *Plastic-Free: How I Kicked the Plastic Habit and How You Can Too*.

Staff Presentations

On July 17, Alyx Karpowicz presented a remediation status update on the Kinder Morgan Brisbane Terminal site to the Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group (Group). She gave a brief overview of the site's history and the requirements of the site cleanup requirements order adopted by the Water Board in 2008, but focused primarily on the chemical concentrations found in the site's groundwater, stormwater, and surface water.

The Group expressed concerns over the potential for stormwater pollution and health impacts to onsite workers. She explained that the analytical data for stormwater runoff show non-detectable levels of contaminants of concern (COCs). The Remedial Action Plan approved for the site in 2007 required an indoor air risk assessment for site workers, which found that the levels of COCs detected in the site's indoor air are below the Board's applicable Environmental Screening Levels for the protection of indoor air quality. She also provided the Group links to our website so the public can access the 2008 order and associated documents, as well as to the GeoTracker database where those required documents (and our concurrence letters) and all reports containing relevant analytical data have been uploaded.

Naomi Feger was invited by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies to speak at its nutrient workshop on July 30. She presented information on the status of the San Francisco Bay Nutrient Strategy and the development of numeric nutrient endpoints, and discussed regulatory approaches and studies conducted in Suisun Bay to investigate phytoplankton low primary productivity and ammonium effects. Wastewater dischargers are supporting this effort by investigating their potential wastewater treatment options to control nutrients and collecting nutrient effluent data to develop solid estimates of nutrient loading to the Bay.

Sandi Potter and Jim Ponton were invited by the Napa Valley Vintners to speak at their *Green Issues Affecting Your Winery* meeting on August 23. The group was very interested in learning about the Water Board's plans to address activities causing erosion and sedimentation in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds by regulating vineyard operations and how this anticipated regulation could potentially affect such operations in the Napa Valley. Sandi and Jim's message focused on how our proposed regulation is compatible with the vineyard owners' ongoing sediment management efforts and sustainability goals.

Enforcement

The following tables show recently issued proposed settlements and settled actions for assessment of penalties as of last month's report. All active cases are available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml

Proposed Settlements			
The following are noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comments are received by the comment deadline, the Executive Officer will sign an order implementing the settlement.			
Discharger	Violation	Penalty Proposed	Comment Deadline
Atlantic Richfield Company, in San Jose	Discharge limit exceedances	\$3,000	September 10, 2012
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company, Golden Eagle Refinery, in Martinez	Discharge limit exceedances	\$9,000	September 7, 2012

Settled Actions			
On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following settlements.			
Discharger	Violation	Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company, Golden Eagle Refinery, in Martinez	Discharge limit exceedances	\$9,000	Not applicable
Morton International, Morton Salt Division, in Newark	Discharge limit exceedance	\$3,000	Not applicable
Phillips 66 Company, SF Refinery, in Rodeo	Discharge limit exceedances	\$3,000	Not applicable
Browning-Ferris Industries, Corinda Los Trancos Landfill, in Half Moon Bay	Discharge limit exceedance	\$3,000	Not applicable
City of American Canyon, Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge limit exceedances	\$6,000	Not applicable
City of Pinole, Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge limit exceedances	\$3,000	Not applicable

Lunny Grading & Paving, Inc., Nicasio Rock Quarry, in Nicasio	Late annual industrial stormwater report, inadequate controls and outdated plan to reduce stormwater pollution	\$11,000	Not applicable
---	--	----------	----------------

The State Board's Office of Enforcement includes a statewide summary of penalty enforcement in its Executive Director's Report, which can be found on the State Board website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/eo_rpts.shtml