

*STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2014

ITEM:       **4**

SUBJECT:    **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *April 2014*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

**NEXT MEETING:** April 9, 2014

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

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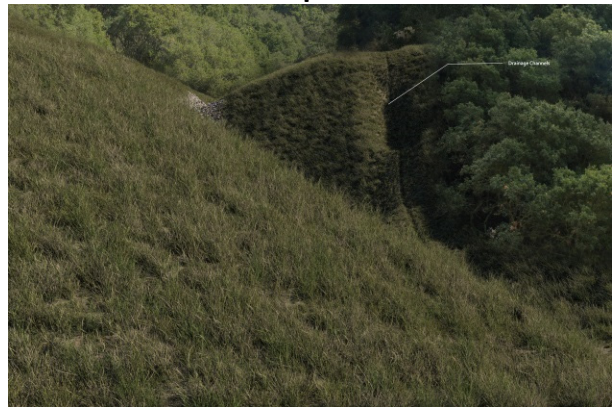
## Leona Heights Sulfur Mine Cleanup Update (Lindsay Whalin)

A community meeting on the Leona Heights Mine Cleanup Project, cohosted by Water Board staff and the City of Oakland (CEQA lead agency), was held on February 27 at the Leona Lodge in Oakland, near the project site. Approximately 50 people attended, including neighbors, Friends of Leona Creek members, and Native Plant Society members. We received feedback on methods to further minimize impacts to neighbors, particularly with respect to traffic and diesel emissions. In response to questions, we also discussed the site revegetation plan and project funding. All attendees who spoke indicated support for the project. The following photos (Image Sets 1, 2, and 3 - all courtesy of LSA Associates), which were shown at the meeting, depict current conditions and projected conditions after cleanup.

**Current Condition Photos**



**After Cleanup Simulations**



**Image Set 1.** *View of Upper Mining Waste Pile, looking northeast (McDonnell Avenue cul-de-sac behind). Leona Creek will run through the canyon between the two stabilized and capped mining waste piles (see creek bed cobbles upper left).*

**Current Condition Photos**



**After Cleanup Simulations**



**Image Set 2.** View of Upper Mining Waste Pile, looking northeast from the McDonell Avenue cul-de-sac (approximately 200 feet back from images in Image Set 1).

The McDonell Avenue cul-de-sac will be expanded to use as a staging area during construction, which will also reduce turnaround time for emergency vehicles after construction. Stormwater run-on prevention ditches are called out (erosion control and slope stability features during revegetation) in project design.



**Image Set 3.** View from the top of the Lower Mining Waste Pile, looking southwest and down, toward Leona Street (parallel to power lines at upper right).

The Lower Mining Waste Pile will be similarly stabilized and capped to isolate sulfur-bearing waste from water to eliminate acid mine drainage. The Leona Creek channel will be expanded to increase flow capacity and will be stabilized, utilizing a step-pool design with cascades, where necessary, in steeper areas. Runoff and creek water will run clear and water quality should improve vastly.

Water Board staff continue to work closely with the City and project designers through the CEQA and permitting process. The City intends to publish its Initial Study / Mitigated Negative declaration for the project the first week of April. On April 4, Water Board staff will attend a guided tour of the Leona Pyrite and Rhyolite outcrops in the area hosted by Gary Scott, a local resident and former geology teacher at Mills College. We will keep the Board updated on the progress of cleanup and restoration at this site.

### **In-house Training**

Our March training was on Climate Change and was intended to educate staff about the state of climate change science and available tools to guide decision-making. Our morning session was followed by a collaborative afternoon session where staff brainstormed about the role of the Water Board in addressing climate change impacts and potential actions needed to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. We have no in-house training in April.

Brownbag seminars included a March 14 session on two site-cleanup topics: (i) Vapor Barrier Technologies to Prevent Vapor Intrusion into Occupied Buildings and (ii) In-Place Groundwater Cleanup Technologies that Rely on Chemical-Treatment Methods.

### **Presentations**

On March 11, Keith Lichten of the Planning and TMDL Division gave a lecture on the history of clean water regulation in the U.S. and current trends in stormwater regulation at the graduate seminar "Hydrology for Planners" to UC Berkeley's Department of Landscape Architecture. The talk included a focus on low impact development and TMDLs as drivers to retrofit urban landscapes with clean water controls.



### Penalty Enforcement Actions Proposed and Final (Lila Tang)

The following tables show proposed settlements, and a final action for imposition of penalties as of last month's report. Proposed settlements are available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public\\_notices/pending\\_enforcement.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml)

| <b>Proposed Settlements</b>  |                            |                         |                         |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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. |                            |                         |                         |
| <b>Discharger</b>  | <b>Violation</b>           | <b>Penalty Proposed</b> | <b>Comment Deadline</b> |
| San Jose Pacific Associates LP,<br>Mayfair Court Apartments in San Jose  | Discharge limit exceedance | \$3,000                 | April 28, 2014          |
| City of St. Helena,<br>Wastewater Treatment Plant  | Discharge limit exceedance | \$3,000                 | April 1, 2014           |
| City of Benicia,<br>Wastewater Treatment Plant   | Discharge limit exceedance | \$3,000                 | April 1, 2014           |

| <b>Final Actions</b>  |                             |                        |   |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following. |                             |                        |   |
| <b>Discharger</b>   | <b>Violation</b>            | <b>Penalty Imposed</b> | <b>Supplemental Environmental Project</b> |
| Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.,<br>in Sunnyvale                         | Discharge limit exceedances | \$6,000                | none                                      |
| Phillips 66, San Francisco Refinery,<br>in Rodeo                      | Discharge limit exceedances | \$6,000                | none                                      |

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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/eo_rpts.shtml)