

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Heather Ottaway)  
MEETING DATE: September 9, 2009

- ITEM: 5
- SUBJECT: **2009 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award** – Presentation of Award in Recognition of Exceptional Accomplishments in Pollution Prevention in the San Francisco Bay Area
- CHRONOLOGY: June 2007 – Annual award established  
September 2007 – Award given for Dental Mercury Reduction Education to Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group, and for collaborative pollution prevention projects with local environmental advocacy groups to East Bay Municipal Utility District  
September 2008 – Award given for FOG to Fuel Program to City and County of San Francisco
- DISCUSSION: This item will present the 2009 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) for its leadership and regional promotion of the 2008 Statewide No Drugs Down the Drain Campaign. The Campaign, held last October, was the first effort in California to tackle pharmaceutical disposal issues at a statewide level. National, State, and local agencies worked together to educate the public on proper methods for disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals and that disposal down the toilet has environmental costs. The Campaign involved media advertisements, an interactive website, and pharmaceutical collection events.
- BAPPG played a pivotal role in coordinating the statewide efforts, and also capitalized on the Campaign by launching a regional program to promote the No Drugs Down the Drain message and regional pharmaceutical collection events and programs. More than 200 local one-day and ongoing pharmaceutical collection options, including community household hazardous waste facilities, were available to the public during the one week campaign. An estimated total of 30,000 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals were collected statewide during the campaign, averaging about 150 pounds per event. Notably, the City of San Jose collected 1,695 pounds of pharmaceuticals at a one-day event located at a senior center.
- The Campaign raised awareness and gave residents options for safely disposing of pharmaceutical waste. The Campaign diverted a large amount of pharmaceuticals that may have otherwise been dumped down the drain, and ended up in waterbodies across the State, including San Francisco Bay. Although a statewide campaign is not taking place this year, BAPPG

has organized another regional campaign that will take place later this month during National Pollution Prevention Week.

The Board established this award to honor the legacy of Dr. Teng-chung Wu who worked at the Board for many years and was an advocate of pollution prevention for decades. The award recognizes innovation, excellence, effectiveness, and collaboration in pollution prevention.

RECOMMENDATION: No action is necessary