

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Lila Tang)  
MEETING DATE: February 16, 2005

**ITEM:** 6

**SUBJECT:** **East Bay Municipal Utility District, Oakland, Alameda County – National Award Winning Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Program** – Information Presentation by the District on its U.S. EPA Recognized Program

**DISCUSSION:** The District won First Place for its pretreatment and pollution prevention program in U.S. EPA's 2004 National Clean Water Act Recognition Award Program, as reported in the October 2004 Executive Officer's Report. We endorsed the District's bid for an award, because we believed that its program fully deserved the recognition. This is the fourth First Place award for the District since the award program's inception in 1989. The District will present highlights of its pretreatment and pollution prevention program at the Board meeting, emphasizing its controls for mercury.

What follows is a brief history and background about pretreatment and pollution prevention. Pretreatment refers to the source control and treatment measures performed by industries before they discharge waste to a municipal sanitary sewer system. Federal regulations required pretreatment starting in 1978 to prevent sewage treatment plant upsets and other potential problems in sanitary sewer lines and at treatment plants. By keeping pollutants out of sanitary sewer systems, these measures also help to improve the quality of wastewater discharged from sewage treatment plants.

Pollution prevention shares some similar goals to pretreatment. The main differences are that it applies to a longer list of possible control measures, and a wider group of entities that use the sanitary sewer system, including private households. The Water Board established pollution prevention requirements in its 1986 Basin Plan, and started implementing a pollution prevention program in 1988. Since then, this program has grown to include nearly all sewage treatment plants and industries in our Region.

Pretreatment and pollution prevention programs successfully reduce heavy metals discharges to the Bay by about 60 percent. In 2003, the Water Board adopted a resolution establishing guiding principles and a collaborative effort with municipal dischargers to further these programs.

**RECOMMEN-  
DATION:** No action necessary for this item.