

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
MEETING DATE: September 11, 2013

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **The Regional Monitoring Program – What It Is and Where It's Headed – Update**
by Program Manager Meg Sedlak

CHRONOLOGY: The last update to the Board on this subject was in 2005.

DISCUSSION: The purpose of this item is to present an update on the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary (Program) and recognize the twentieth anniversary of its creation by the Board in 1993. The Program is a collaborative scientific effort between the Board and the regulated discharger community that is coordinated and managed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. Meg Sedlak of the Institute is manager of the Program and will provide this update.

The Program has become a national model for how to best establish and run a science-based monitoring program that can provide the water quality information decision-makers need. Rather than require each discharger to conduct its own receiving water monitoring, as was done prior to the Program's initiation, the Board now allows all municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers, stormwater permittees, and dredgers in the Region to meet their receiving water monitoring requirements by contributing a set sum to the Program. As a result, the Program has a sustainable funding source of over \$3 million a year and has become the primary source of information used to evaluate chemical pollution in the Bay. Further, the Program has been designed to provide the necessary water quality data to answer management and associated regulatory questions critical to effective management of the Bay. In particular, the Program provides important scientific information about water quality and the status of beneficial uses related to Board staff's development of TMDLs and water quality-based NPDES permit requirements. This scientific information is made readily available to all stakeholders and the regulated community.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: This is an information item only, and no action is necessary.