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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT – Cheryl Prowell
MEETING DATE: February 13, 2018

ITEM: **6D**

SUBJECT: **Cleanup Programs – Status Report Including Case Closures**

DISCUSSION: This is a semiannual status report on the Board's three cleanup programs: the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program, the Site Cleanup Program (SCP), and the Military Cleanup Program (also known as the Department of Defense or "DoD" program). These programs oversee the investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater pollution. This report summarizes our fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 performance-measure accomplishments for the first half of the fiscal year and provides updates on key activities in the cleanup programs.

Performance Measures
The Regional Water Boards use performance measures to gauge our effectiveness in restoring and protecting water quality. For the cleanup programs, we have two measures: number of cases closed and number of cases starting active remediation.

Results for the performance measure *Number of Cases Closed* are shown below. This measure indicates the elimination of threats to human health and water quality. We are below the 50 percent benchmark for case closures in all programs. In the UST program, the remaining cases are more difficult, thus our closure rate is getting lower. We are examining the more common obstacles and developing measures to try to overcome them. In the SCP program, fewer closures may be a result of more conservative closure criteria based on our new approach to vapor intrusion. In the DoD program, fewer closures are likely due to a temporary shift in Navy funding to address radiological evaluations at the former Hunters Point Shipyard and Treasure Island Naval Station. We expect the rate of case closures to increase somewhat for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Cleanup Program	FY 18 - 19 Cases Closed		
	Target	Actual*	% of Target
UST	35	7	20
SCP	35	13	37
DoD**	30	4	13
Total	100	24	24

*As of December 31, 2018
**Internal target (no statewide target)

Results for the performance measure *Number of Cases Starting Active Remediation* are shown below. This measure indicates the transition from site investigation to actual cleanup leading to the elimination of threats to human health and water quality.

We are at or above the 50 percent benchmark in both the UST and SCP program and below benchmark in the DoD program, although we are meeting the benchmark as of the end of January.

Cleanup Program	FY 18 - 19 Cases Starting Active Remediation		
	Target	Actual*	% of Target
UST	5	3	60
SCP	20	11	55
DoD	5	1	20
Total	30	15	50

*As of December 31, 2018

Figure 1 in Appendix A shows how our targets and results have trended over time in the three cleanup programs. To put this in perspective, Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the total number of active, inactive, and closed cases in each program over time.

UST Program
We continue to receive support from U.S. EPA and the State Water Board for stalled UST cases to move them into the next active regulatory phase. We initially identified 26 stalled UST cases. We have resolved 13 of these cases by engaging the discharger and taking steps to move the case toward closure.

We anticipate receiving additional UST cases from local oversight agencies during the fiscal year. Due to its reduced caseload, Solano County, a Local Oversight Program Agency, will transfer about 12 cases for our oversight. We recently received 10 UST cases from Alameda County Water District based on its inability to require work from recalcitrant dischargers. We also expect to receive new fuel UST cases over the next several years as a result of the requirement to phase out single-wall systems by December 31, 2025.

The UST Cleanup Fund is scheduled to sunset after December 31, 2025. After that date, tank owners and operators will have to find alternative financial mechanisms to fund cleanup on still-open UST sites. This provides us with additional motivation to maintain a brisk case-closure rate.

SCP Program
The SCP Program continues to benefit from the funding mechanisms provided by the Site Cleanup Subaccount program created by SB445. This is due to both the grant mechanism that has created both funding for sites with limited ability to pay and funding for the staff time to work on cases without a discharger willing to reimburse us for our oversight time. Appendix B provides details on the work we are doing with SB445 funds in four project areas – unfunded cases, abandoned and inactive mines, sustainable groundwater management, and oversight of cases with SB445 grants.

Redevelopment projects have been an ongoing focus of the SCP Program. With the new approach to vapor intrusion assessment and mitigation, we are working with developers to encourage more aggressive active cleanup and require more monitoring of vapor mitigation systems, to ensure their long-term effectiveness.

DoD Program
Our eight Board staff in the DoD cleanup program oversee investigation and cleanup of former military facilities, including those that have transferred from the military to local entities, such as a city or its master developer, for redevelopment or open space. We currently oversee about 30 DoD facilities in our program that comprise about 370 military cleanup sites.

Typically, much of the cleanup is completed by the time of land transfer. Exceptions include petroleum sites, landfills, and wetland restorations, which may require continued oversight by our DoD staff after transfer. We are also involved when a former military base undergoes redevelopment to ensure that cleanup remains protective for the new site uses. These are called *military-privatized sites*. After the land transfer, we stop charging our staff time to the DoD program and enroll the new site and land owner in the SCP cost recovery program. We currently have about 50 military-privatized sites.

About 10 percent of our DoD program sites comprise our highest priorities based on potential shoreline/wetland contaminant discharges, groundwater plumes near supply wells, vapor intrusion threats to occupants of existing buildings, stormwater discharges, or direct human exposure to contaminated soil. The safe reuse of the Region's former military bases is a mandated priority for the Region and State, and our role is vital to ensuring that the cleanup, restoration, and redevelopment is protective of human health and the environment.

Vapor Intrusion Guidance
As we discussed in our May 2018 Status Report, staff from our office, the State Water Board, and the State Department of Toxics Substances Control have created a consensus approach to the investigation and risk evaluation of vapor intrusion. The guidance provides a standardized approach for vapor intrusion assessments conducted throughout the State and proposes development of a California vapor intrusion database to further refine the approach. The document is currently undergoing the final stages of management review statewide. The team intends to post the draft version of the document this winter beginning a two-month comment period that will We will revise the guidance as warranted. The [Environmental Screening Levels](#) are being updated with the new guidance. The updated spreadsheets were posted on January 24. The User's Guide is still under review and will be posted soon. We also plan to update our 2014 *[Interim Framework for Assessment of Vapor Intrusion at TCE-Contaminated Sites in the San Francisco Bay Region](#)*.

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

File No. 1210.47 (CLP)

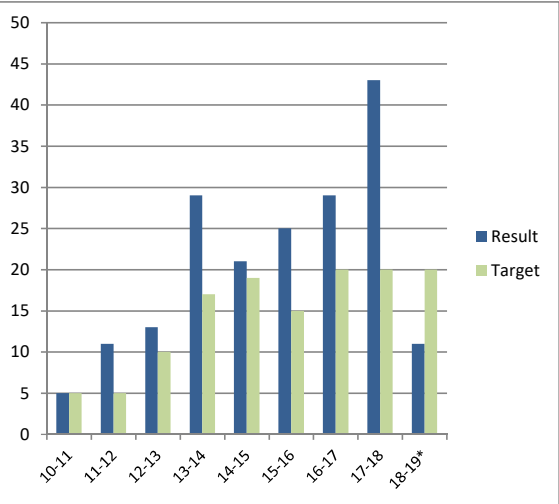Appendix A – Trends in Performance Targets and Results
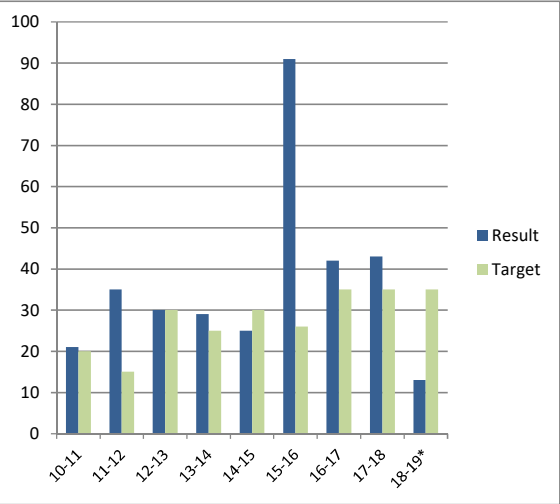Appendix B – SB445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Projects

Appendix A

Trends in Performance Targets and Results

Figure 1: Comparison of Performance Measures
Performance Targets and Results for two performance measures used for the three cleanup programs
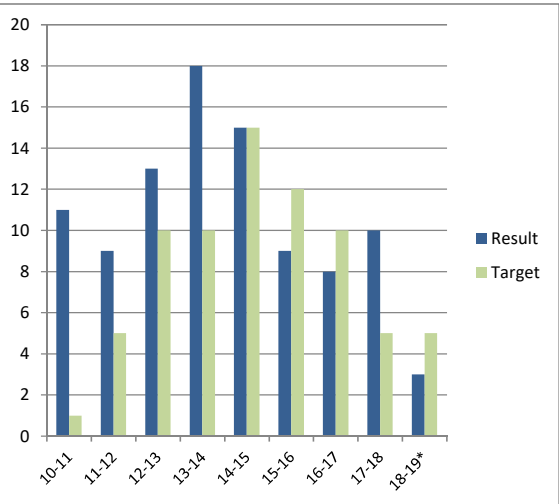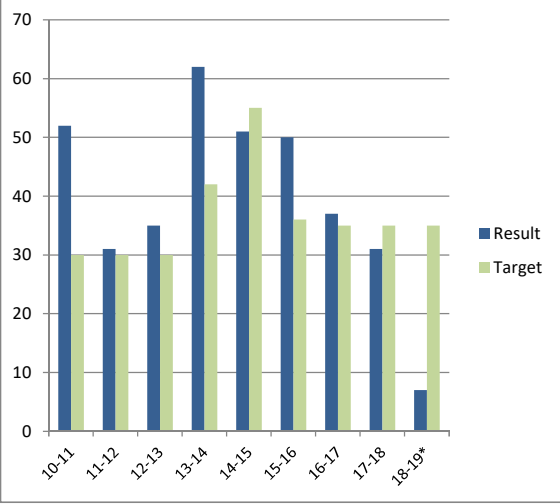
SCP - Cases Starting Remediation
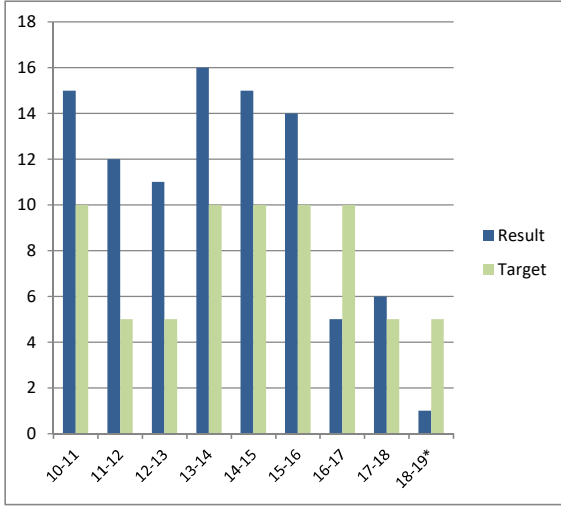

SCP - Case Closures

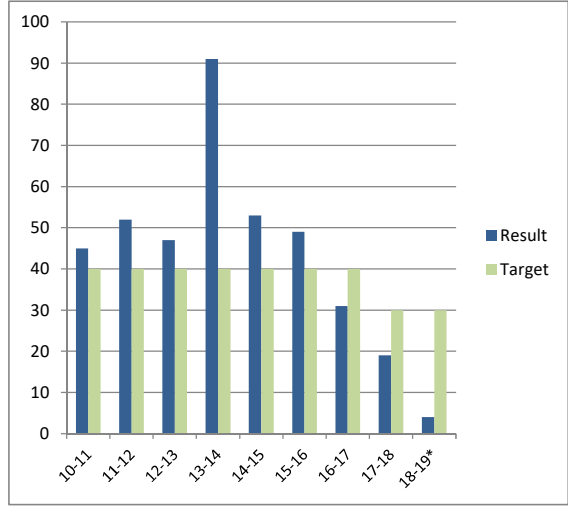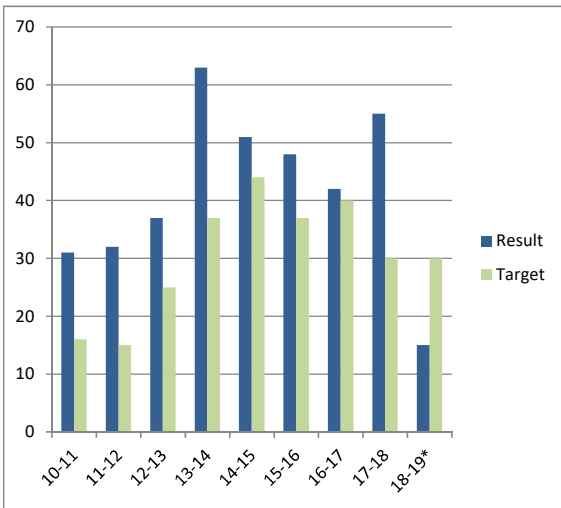### UST - Cases Starting Remediation

UST - Case Closures

DOD - Cases Starting Remediation

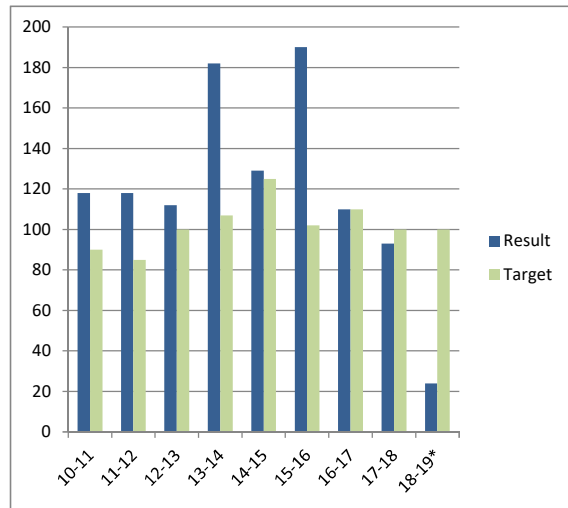## DOD - Case Closures
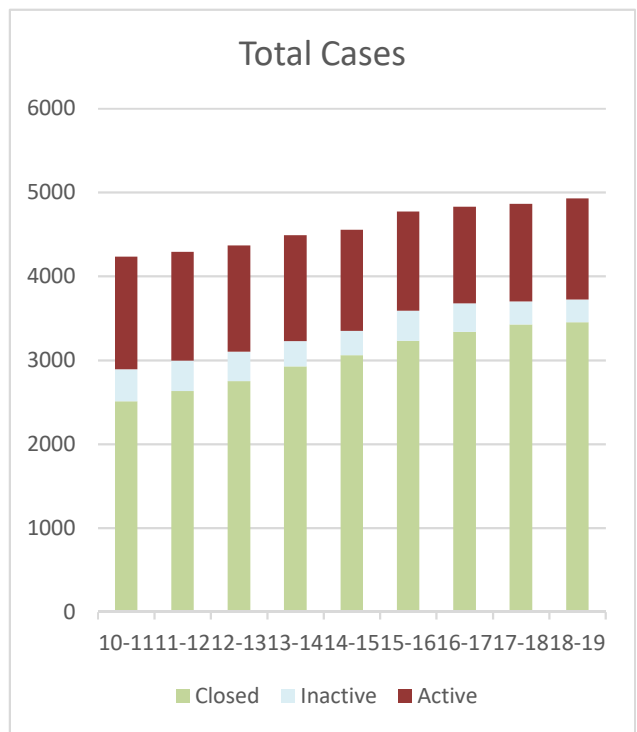

Combined - Cases Starting Remediation

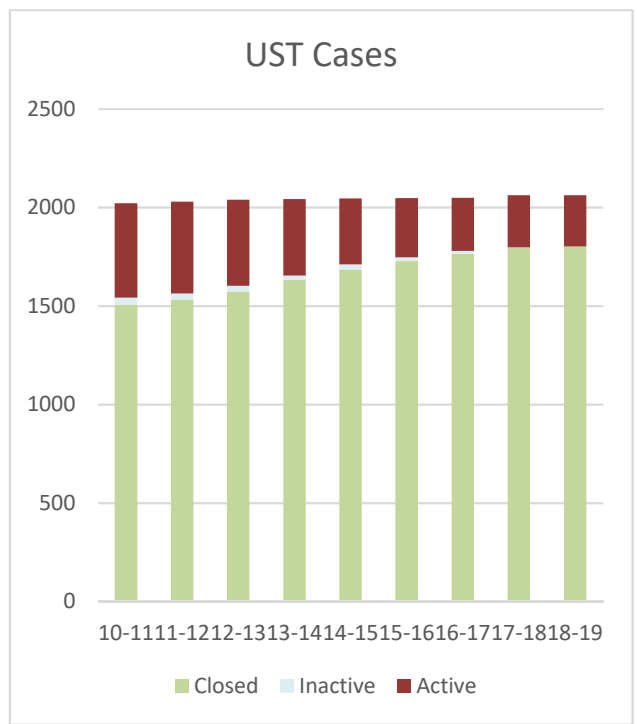## Combined - Case Closures

* first half only

Figure 2: Status of Cases
in the Three Cleanup Programs

SCP Cases

Closed ▪ Inactive ▪ Active

UST Cases

Closed ▪ Inactive ▪ Active

DOD Cases

Closed ▪ Inactive ▪ Active

Total Cases

Closed ▪ Inactive ▪ Active

Appendix B

SB445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Projects

SB445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Projects

Our Region receives 2.8 positions funded through the SB445 Site Cleanup Subaccount. Using this staff time, we are working on three projects: unfunded cases, abandoned mines, and sustainable groundwater management. We also use this staff time to oversee cases that receive SB445 Site Cleanup Subaccount grants and contractor services. As the number of these cases grows, we will need to use an increasing portion of our time to oversee them. This will reduce the amount of time we can devote to these four projects. We will explore alternative ways to continue these projects and will brief you on our findings. Below is some project-specific news:

Unfunded Cases – The goal of this project is to reduce our backlog of unassigned cases. We review the highest-priority unassigned cases and determine if we can issue a low-threat case closure. If they are not a candidate for closure, we enroll the responsible party into our cost recovery oversight program, encourage them to apply for Site Cleanup Subaccount Grant funding, oversee them within the project, or keep them as unassigned. For the first half of the fiscal year, we brought 6 cases into cost recovery, closed 3 cases, and reclassified 5 as "non-case information" cases because they are overseen by another agency or the case would not have been opened by today's standards.

Abandoned Mines – Former mercury mines in our region pose a significant threat, due to mercury's toxicity and its ability to bio-concentrate up the food chain. We have cleaned up 11 abandoned mines, have 10 under investigation or cleanup, and have prioritized 7 for early action. We provided a status update on this project at the December 12, 2018, Board meeting. To read the staff summary report, please visit:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2018/December/7_ssr.pdf
To review the presentation, please visit:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/hot_topics/MinesCleanupProgram/Mines_Status_Mercury_FINAL_pub.pdf

Sustainable Groundwater Management – We provided a Status Report to the Board on this project in January 2018. Since then the team has completed "quick look" fact sheets for 14 groundwater basins summarizing water supply, impacted supply wells, management plans, monitoring, and our regulatory actions within each basin. Fact sheets will be posted on our soon to be updated "Groundwater" webpage, which will describe and link to our various programs for protecting and restoring groundwater beneficial uses. We're on track to have this work completed by the end of February.

We are also developing and prioritizing source-investigation strategies to address impacted supply wells. We've identified 31 supply wells in our region with at least one detection of an industrial contaminant or pesticide and are looking for potential sources for site cleanup. We've developed an agreement with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water to receive real-time notification of future supply well impacts and are using the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) program to view and evaluate data from drinking water supply wells.

We are also assessing local or basin-wide salt and nitrate impacts and the need for management actions to address such concerns. We've evaluated salt and nutrient management plans for the Sonoma, Livermore, and Santa Clara valleys and brought resolutions of support to the Board in

December 2014, March 2016, and November 2016, respectively. We are currently working with the Alameda County Water District on a plan for the Niles Cone (near Fremont) and with Napa County on a plan for the Napa Valley.

In 2019, we plan to address two additional projects:

- *Groundwater-Surface Water Assessment:* We will work cross programmatically to develop best practices for assessing groundwater baseflow contributions to stream habitat and how to best ensure that local agency groundwater management plans identify this often-overlooked connection.

- *Groundwater Basin Prioritization:* We will prioritize groundwater basins on *groundwater usability*, which captures the probability for future domestic or municipal beneficial use in each basin considering current and historic use. Several other factors would be evaluated including water quality threats, aquifer storage and yield, and local agency plans). This prioritization project could have important implications for optimizing cleanup timeframe and granting low-threat case closures, and for basin management decisions regarding salts and nutrients and water quality trends.