

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

STAFF: Jan O'Hara

MEETING DATE: November 1, 2007

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: **2007 National U.S. EPA Clean Water Act Recognition Award**

DISCUSSION: The U.S. EPA has awarded the City of Oakland its Clean Water Act Award (CWA) in recognition of the City's initiatives and sustained efforts on behalf of its water bodies. Board staff nominated Oakland for its innovative stormwater program and the City's numerous initiatives to protect its creeks and shoreline.

In February 2006, the City adopted a litter tax ordinance that imposes taxes on fast food businesses, convenience marts, gas stations and liquor stores to fund trash cleanup and public education. The City banned polystyrene foam (such as Styrofoam) food containers as of January, 2007, and non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags as of this summer. In addition, Oakland has implemented a car-share program to reduce air and water pollution.

Watershed Program and Oakland Public Works staff are partnering with EBMUD, Alameda County Public Works Agency, and Water Board to pilot a project to direct dry weather flows and possibly "first flush" stormwater runoff from the Ettie Street subwatershed to EBMUD's sewage treatment plant. Runoff in the Ettie Street area generally has elevated concentrations of PCBs. Other Watershed Program accomplishments include creation and administration of:

- Creek Permit standards for creek setbacks, use of bioengineering techniques and native vegetation; inclusion of associated requirements in Oakland's stormwater ordinance;
- A map for tracking and requiring permits for the 5000+ creek-side properties in Oakland;
- Creek Preservation Program to acquire land and conservation easements to protect headwater and creek habitat;
- Creek Restoration Program to implement projects such as removal of concrete channels and culverts;
- Maintain a Drain, Adopt a Creek, and Adopt a Spot/Block volunteer programs;
- Lake Merritt Water Quality Committee and pilot projects to improve Lake quality, including tide flap, stormwater inlet trash removal devices, and aeration technology projects.

The citizens of Oakland also deserve recognition, because they passed Measure DD in November 2002, Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks,

providing 198 million for improvement of Lake Merritt water quality, creek restoration, and creek property preservation.

RECOMMENDATION: Information item – no action required.

File No. 1538.01 (JBO)