

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Michael Montgomery  
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021

**ITEM: 12**

**Progress Report – Status update from 2020 Strategic Priorities**

**DISCUSSION**

One year ago, we shared our strategic and program priorities with the Board. As we close out the calendar year, we are circling back and providing an update regarding our progress towards these priorities. To align our priorities discussion with the State Fiscal Year prioritization and budgeting, we will present our priorities for the year ahead in the Spring.

Last year we had three Strategic Priorities: Climate Change/Water Resilience, Stormwater and Organizational Development. Given the recent two-day hearing on the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit and the planned update on Caltrans for this December 15 meeting, we are not going to provide an overall update on Stormwater in this Progress Report.

This last year started out with hardship and uncertainty as we continued to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic surge, unrest in our nation's capital, ongoing staff shortages, reduced pay and redirection of staff to contact tracing and fire recovery efforts. Throughout the Spring, outlooks improved a little as vaccines became available. Unfortunately, the summer surge in COVID cases continued to hamper our programs somewhat, however summer also brought welcome news with the return of our staff that were assigned to contact tracing, and the addition of new positions in our cleanup program. The Fall was highlighted by the return of our annual picnic and an opportunity to re-unite in-person outdoors. Fall also ushered in serious concerns regarding the drought and the need to work with water suppliers as they prepared for the worst. We remain in a cautionary mode of nearly 100 percent telework as we await further direction from CalEPA and continue to adapt to changing circumstances.

The management team is extremely proud of staff as they have remained resilient, providing support to each other and finding ways to get our important work done over the course of a challenging year. We look forward to sharing the highlights of our progress and remain grateful for the continued support, encouragement and leadership of our Board.

## **Climate Change/Water Resilience**

### ***Regional Planning through Partnerships***

The Water Board has contributed to several long-range planning efforts related to shoreline and Bay-wide climate resilience through several partnerships. The highest priority regional efforts and their status and outcomes are described in this section. Additional planning efforts are included within the relevant Division or Program progress reports.

Water Board staff participated actively on the Leadership Advisory Group and several workgroups in development of the [Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#) - A Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay. Water Board staff also assisted with outreach on draft versions to frontline (disadvantaged) communities and local elected officials. The Platform is a regional strategy for a rising Bay developed by multiple stakeholders and facilitated by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). The engagement this year culminated in adoption of Resolutions by BCDC and other collaborators, as well as letters and commitments of support by several other stakeholders. Stakeholders are committing to implement the Platform, including actions to address impacts of sea level rise and to secure funding from the federal infrastructure act and the state climate resilience fund.

Water Board also participated actively in climate action activities of the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) along with leaders of other regional government agencies. The efforts this year culminated in approval of [A Joint Resolution](#) to Address Climate Change to track climate change impacts and actions in the region; the Resolution focuses member agencies' efforts related to climate change adaptation over the next one to five years into a Shared Work Plan, including implementing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform individually and collectively. This past year, staff also provided outreach and expertise to BARC members on green infrastructure and recycled water planning and permitting.

Water Board staff have been active in updating the San Francisco Estuary Project's [Estuary Blueprint](#). Staff specifically worked on improving actions to address wetland protection, climate resilience, adaptation planning and implementations, sediment, recycled water, stormwater management and nutrients, all of which are impacted by or in response to climate change. Staff contributed to development of draft language and prioritization of several actions for the draft Blueprint which is currently being finalized for approval in the Spring of 2022.

### ***Policies and Technical Assistance to Advance Resilient/Nature-Based Adaptation***

Water Board staff are actively participating in workgroups and workshops to provide policy and technical assistance to advance use of nature-based solutions for resilience. Examples of these efforts include the Transforming Shorelines Project, San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group, and State Highway 37.

### *Transforming Shorelines Project*

The Transforming Shorelines Collaborative is a project being implemented by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to support collaborative engagement on nature-based solutions. The specific goals of the project are to (1) build regional capacity for nature-based solutions through technical support and analyses; (2) advance a suite of nature-based solution projects through design, permitting and implementation; and (3) advance state of the art water quality improvement approaches at the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee site. Participants are comprised of practitioners and experts on nature-based solutions, wastewater treatment, resiliency and nutrient management including regulators, landowners and stakeholders, individual wastewater treatment facilities, regional entities and practitioners/experts involved in habitat restoration, treatment wetlands, or shoreline resilience.

### *San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group*

The [San Leandro Bay/Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group](#) is an effort being led by the City of Alameda to coordinate climate adaptation projects within the Adaptation Atlas' [San Leandro Operational Landscape Unit](#) in a manner that protects and restore water quality, habitat, and adjacent community vitality. The Working Group consists of the federal, state and local agencies, environmental non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations. We are currently participating in quarterly meetings with the working and are funding the San Francisco Estuary Institute to provide technical assistance to the Working Group.

### *State Highway 37*

State Highway 37, which runs along the northern edge of San Pablo Bay between U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 80, is threatened by sea level rise and portions flood now during extreme high tides and large storm events. We are working with Caltrans and other government and NGO stakeholders to address both short-term needs and a long-term solution (see [August Executive Officer's Report \(ca.gov\)](#) for more details). As part of that coordination, we have emphasized that the current effort, a corridor-wide study, should target rebuilding this critical regional transportation corridor by integrating engineering design with ecological protection and restoration to increase resilience and adaptation of the region's built and natural landscapes to climate change, including sea level rise and extreme events. That includes taking into account guidance from documents including the [Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update](#), [San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas](#), [Marin County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Framework](#), [Novato Creek Baylands Vision](#), and [Sonoma Creek Baylands Strategy](#) to design a project that takes into account its landscape context and incorporates resilience to future change.

### **Organizational Development**

Sustaining a high performing workforce in a dynamic environment requires some significant effort. We included Organizational Development last year as a strategic priority in recognition of our need to amplify our ongoing efforts to recruit, retain and develop our entire organization.

We have developed and are implementing a recruitment plan in collaboration with the new recruitment staff at State Board. This plan will increase outreach and invitations to apply to job vacancies to more people from the racial and ethnic groups currently underrepresented in the SF Bay Water Board workforce.

We focused on retention of new employees by making sure we are setting these new folks up for success. We implemented an onboarding “buddy system” to help new employees during the sometimes challenging first year on the job. An onboarding buddy helps a new employee develop connections, understand our culture, create clarity, and start to build capability within the Water Boards.

To foster continued development of staff we stepped up efforts to reinforce existing and deploy new cross divisional teams. Some examples of this are our Climate Action Team and our Racial Equity Advisory Team. Another example is our PCB Team that coordinated the Informational Item presented to the Board last month.

Finally, in addition to ongoing leadership development efforts, our management team conducted a 360 evaluation and will be using the results to develop individual plans to improve their skills as leaders.

## **DIVISION UPDATES**

### **Planning Division Update**

The Planning Division, under the leadership of Xavier Fernandez, is responsible for updating the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region (Basin Plan), developing and implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), regulating navigational dredging projects, monitoring the region’s waters, and administering the Nonpoint Source, Irrigated Lands Programs. Overall, the Planning Division worked on 14 priorities across 8 programs.

### ***Status of Basin Planning Program and TMDL Program Priorities***

The objective of the Basin Planning Program is to update the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the Basin Plan. The objective of the TMDL Program is to develop and implement plans to restore the quality of water bodies identified as not meeting water quality standards under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. The status of priorities for these programs are provided below.

Priorities for the Basin Planning and TMDL Programs included two climate action priorities and six other priorities. The climate action priorities included a Basin Plan amendment (BPA) to clarify wetland protection policies within the context of climate change, and the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. The other priorities included Basin Plan Amendments to revise the chlorine water quality objective and update the bacteria water quality objectives; TMDLs to address bacteria at Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach and to address bacteria at Foster City and South San Francisco Beaches; a water quality improvement plan (WQIP) to address sediment in the San Gregorio watershed; and implementation support for all 17 approved TMDLs and one WQIP.

Planning Division has and will continue to work closely with the Watershed Division on the Climate Change BPA. We are currently in the final stages of preparing the tentative Climate Change BPA. We solicited public input during a scoping meeting in July and are currently consulting with two tribes. We anticipate releasing the Climate Change BPA in January for public comment, providing an information item on the Climate Change BPA during the February Board meeting, and bringing the Climate Change BPA before the Regional Water Board for consideration in April. The Board adopted the triennial review resolution at the November Board meeting. Our next step is to notify U.S. EPA of the results of the Triennial Review. Key changes in the approach used for the Triennial Review included ranking projects with a climate change nexus as a higher priority and including a set aside to address essential basin planning work, such as incorporating racial equity in all Basin Planning work.

The Chlorine Water Quality Objective BPA was adopted by the Board in November 2020, was approved by the State Water Board in July 2021 and by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in October 2021. It is currently being reviewed for approval by U.S. EPA. The Bacteria Water Quality Objectives and Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach Bacteria TMDL were adopted by the Regional Water Board in February 2021, were approved by the State Water Board in July 2021 and by OAL in November 2021. They are currently being reviewed for approval by U.S. EPA. The Foster City and South San Francisco Beaches Bacteria TMDL has been delayed as a result of staff being pulled off to assist with the Navigational Dredging Program (see below) and Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit. The San Gregorio WQIP was adopted by the Regional Water Board in October 2021. Planning staff have supported implementation of approved TMDLs by working with the Watershed Division to incorporate provisions in the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit that implement sediment, bacteria, PCB/Hg, and pesticide TMDLs.

### ***Status of Dredging and Disposal Program Priorities***

The navigational dredging program included in the Basin Plan's Implementation Program is the Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region (LTMS). Under this program, Regional Water Board staff work with federal, State, and local partners to manage navigational dredging and disposal activities in the Bay. One of the goals of the LTMS is to maximize beneficial use of dredged materials. The importance of this goal in adapting to climate change has recently been highlighted by the San Francisco Estuary Institute's [Sediment for Survival report](#). Accordingly, climate actions within our navigational dredging program have focused on (1) increasing beneficial use of dredged materials by working on a pilot project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and (2) increasing beneficial use of dredged sediment and upland soils by revising methods for assessing whether the dredged sediment and excavated upland soils are of suitable quality for beneficial use.

We are working closely with the Corps, U.S. EPA, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on a pilot project to increase beneficial reuse. This pilot project would be to allow about 50 percent of sediment dredged by the Corps from the Oakland Federal Channel in 2022 to be disposed of in-Bay if the remaining 50

percent is beneficially reused (50/50 Split). Through several meetings with the Corps, U.S. EPA, and BCDC at both Executive Management and program staff levels, we have tentatively reached an agreement with the Corps and other LTMS agencies to include the 50/50 Split in the Corps' bid solicitation. Next steps include determining the bid solicitation language and formally documenting the agreement.

Our Dredging Program staff are also participating in a San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program project to revise beneficial use screening values using a risk-based approach called the floating percentile method. This method is anticipated to increase the volume of sediment available for beneficial use by raising screening values in a scientifically defensible and environmentally protective manner. Lastly, Dredging Program staff are supporting the Watershed Division on a project with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to revise the quality assurance project plan for importing upland soil for beneficial use to restore tidal marshes. The first step is to develop a conceptual model and identify data gaps. Similar to the floating percentile method, the goal of revising the quality assurance project plan is to use a risk-based approach to increase the amount of upland soils available for beneficial use while continuing to protect the environment.

***Status of Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program, and Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program***

SWAMP supports many Regional Water Board programs by monitoring water quality in lakes and streams. The NPS Program implements TMDLs by regulating and providing grants to control: 1) runoff from confined animal facilities, 2) runoff from grazing operations, and 3) hydromodification from agriculture. The Irrigated Lands Program implements TMDLs by regulating vineyards under general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) that require permittees to assess and document the erosion potential of their farmed areas, and to install and maintain best management practices to reduce surface erosion and fine sediment discharges to receiving waters.

This past year, our SWAMP staff monitored sediment conditions in Pescadero Creek to establish a baseline for future assessment of TMDL implementation actions. NPS program staff conducted outreach to dairies to ensure smooth transfer from the expiring Conditional Waiver for Dairies to the Confined Animal Facility General WDRs. As a result, 34 of the 39 dairies enrolled in now expired Conditional Waivers have enrolled for coverage under the Confined Animal Facility General WDRs. NPS Program staff are now following up with notifications to the five remaining dairies to bring them into compliance.

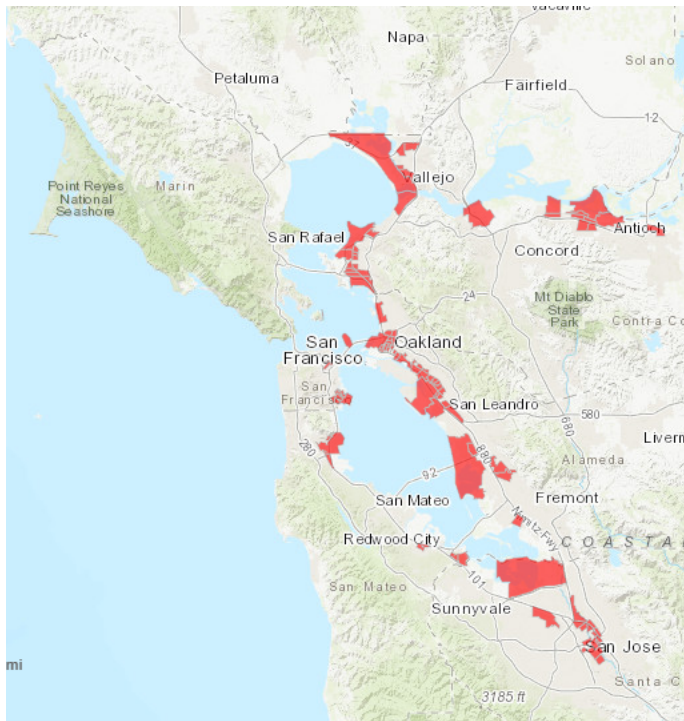
Our Irrigated Lands Program staff conducted outreach on annual reporting requirements in the vineyard WDRs resulting in 90 percent compliance with the first year of reporting. Irrigated Lands Program staff will be following up with the remaining 10 percent of the vineyards to bring them into compliance. In addition, Irrigated Lands Program staff also participated in workshops hosted by the Napa and Sonoma Farm Bureaus to ensure a smooth roll out of the group monitoring program for the Vineyard General WDRs.

## Watershed Management Division Update

The Watershed Management Division, under Keith Lichten's leadership, oversees stormwater runoff control, which includes developing and overseeing large municipal and Caltrans stormwater permits and implementing the statewide permits for industrial stormwater, construction stormwater, and small- and non-traditional municipal stormwater. In addition, the Division oversees the stream and wetland protection, recycled water, and on-site wastewater treatment program. Overall, the Division is working on 18 priorities across our four key programs.

### ***Status of Industrial and Construction Stormwater General Permit Implementation: Environmental Justice Focus***

Starting this summer, staff incorporated environmental justice factors as part of an updated prioritization approach for facility inspections and reviews for these two permits. The approach uses data from CalEPA's California Communities Environmental Health Screening tool [Cal Enviroscreen](#) to prioritize work on facilities in disadvantaged communities with a disproportionately high pollution burden, population characteristics indicating sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors indicating disadvantaged status. That approach is combined with other prioritization factors, including municipal referrals, particular business types (for industry) or project characteristics (for construction), to focus our work.



SB 535 disadvantaged communities in Region 2

The result was a significant shift to work on facilities in disadvantaged communities shown in the figure above. As part of a summer project reviewing certain industrial facilities claiming not to have exposure of industrial materials to stormwater,

pre-inspection reviews of facility documents resulted in completing 71 percent of the reviews for facilities in disadvantaged communities. However, only about 22 percent of the “no exposure” facilities were located in disadvantaged communities; the environmental justice prioritization resulted in a substantially greater focus on facilities in those communities. The reviews led us to complete 77 percent of subsequent inspections in those communities; in the absence of the environmental justice prioritization, we likely would have completed only about 20 percent of inspections there. We intend to continue to incorporate these factors, in combination with other prioritization criteria, to focus our work.

### ***Status of Stream and Wetland Protection Program: Stream Maintenance Program Adoption and Key Projects***

We continued our focus on improving permitting efficiency by using programmatic permits to authorize ongoing, repetitive work, so that affected agencies can plan efficiently while ensuring water quality is appropriately protected. At its April 2021 meeting, the Board amended existing Stream Maintenance Program Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification to authorize the Sonoma County Water Agency’s work, in addition to the existing authorization for work in Contra Costa, Napa, and San Mateo counties. We expect to bring before you in about the coming year authorization for routine maintenance work by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and reauthorization for the City of Livermore and Marin County. The Board has previously authorized other routine maintenance permits for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, East Bay Regional Park District, Ports of Oakland and San Francisco, and Cargill.

Similarly, we are focusing on Bay wetland restoration and related climate action projects. Programmatic efforts are discussed under the Planning Division. The Watershed Management Division has focused on project-specific planning for projects including State Highway 37 in the North Bay and San Francisco International Airport, and planning and/or implementation efforts for projects including Anderson Dam and Coyote Creek in the South Bay, and the South Bay Shoreline Protection Project and South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project in the South and East Bays.

A key focus has been the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), a multi-agency team that reviews Bay shoreline restoration projects funded by Measure AA, which are key climate action projects to adapt to anticipated sea level rise. The BRRIT also develops permitting guidance to facilitate more-efficient review and authorization of projects going forward. The past year saw authorization of projects including Richmond’s Terminal 4 Wharf, which will remove a substantial amount of degraded creosote-treated wood piles and implement innovative shoreline protection measures intended to facilitate oyster growth, and the recent breach ceremony for the BRRIT-reviewed Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project in Contra Costa County, as detailed in the December 2021 Executive Officer’s Report.



### ***Status of Biosolids Land Application: Cross-Divisional and External Coordination***

While we did not identify this as a specific individual priority for this year, as an outgrowth of our work on climate action and contaminants of emerging concern, Division staff began more-focused work on land application of biosolids to sites in the Bay margin. Staff initiated an effort, in coordination with other divisions and with external stakeholders including the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), and wetland restoration project proponents, to review the potential impacts of land application of wastewater treatment plant biosolids to historically diked Baylands that are also targets of future wetland restoration. That has led to a draft White Paper (in production) that will frame the questions, provide current information, and note areas for additional work. We are working with other parties, including the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, to complete monitoring that will better characterize biosolids, including emerging contaminants such as PFAS. The work will help determine both the compatibility of biosolids in Bay margin wetland restoration and identify measures to ensure water quality and beneficial uses are appropriately protected.

### ***Status of Water Recycling Projects***

Finally, in coordination with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water, the Division continued to work on water recycling projects. We completed authorizations for tech campus water recycling projects at Google and Microsoft. These projects capture rain water and utilize recycled water for uses including toilet flush and landscape irrigation, reducing potable water demand. This builds water supply resilience, an important climate action goal. We enrolled the City of Hayward's new recycled water program in the [State General Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use](#), and we worked with Marin Municipal Water District and Marin sanitation agencies over the summer to authorize additional recycled water uses during the drought. We continue to engage externally to identify recycled water opportunities and expand recycled water use across the region including participation in the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies Recycled Water Committee and the Silicon Valley Onsite Water Reuse Working Group hosted by the Pacific Institute.

### **NPDES Wastewater / Enforcement Division Update**

The NPDES Wastewater Program is a federal Clean Water Act program that requires permits for discharges to waters of the United States. We oversee roughly 80 wastewater NPDES permits, which must be reissued every five years. In FY 20-21, the Board issued 14 NPDES permits, including a new general permit for fireworks and a new individual permit (and cease and desist order) for the Stevens Creek Quarry. Currently, about 95 percent of our wastewater NPDES permits are up to date, well exceeding EPA's expectations.

This level of productivity allowed us to undertake some important housekeeping in FY 21 – 22. Thus far, we prepared two “blanket” permit amendments: one to implement new chlorine water quality objectives, and another to eliminate unnecessary monitoring requirements and require dischargers to fund Regional Monitoring Program studies of constituents of emerging concern (CECs). We also significantly revamped the Tesoro

Martinez Facility permit to reflect its move from refining crude oil to processing renewable feedstocks to produce diesel, propane, and naphtha. Two more new permits are also in the works: one for a new treatment wetland at the San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant, and another for the Oregon Expressway Underpass, where groundwater discharges require treatment.

We continue to facilitate regional wastewater infrastructure planning and renewal:

- **Climate Action:** In FY 20 – 21, we required petroleum refineries to provide information about how they will ensure that existing and future climate conditions do not disrupt their operations. We requested similar information from municipal wastewater treatment plants. In FY 21 – 22, we required the few treatment plants that did not voluntarily respond to our questions to provide this information. We are compiling and reviewing the responses.
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflows:** In FY 20 – 21, we inspected five sanitary sewer collection systems, and we plan more inspections for FY 21 – 22. We continue to oversee several cease and desist orders, and last month the Board adopted a cleanup and abatement order to reduce sewer overflows from San Francisco’s combined sewer systems, the result of negotiations initiated in FY 20 – 21. To maintain this momentum, we continue to advise State Water Board staff as they update the statewide collection system general permit. Although the number of sanitary sewer overflows in our region has declined somewhat over the last decade, in FY 20-21 sanitary sewer overflows resulting from wipes-related blockages increased due to the pandemic. Recent legislation (AB818) will require wipes packaging to display “do not flush” warnings.
- **Water Recycling:** We continue to meet with several parties interested in recycling more wastewater (e.g., the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant) to plan the best way to permit reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate discharges. Strategies include blending with treated effluent prior to discharge, and treatment and discharge through nature-based treatment systems.
- **Nutrients:** In FY 20 – 21, we began to lay the groundwork for the third iteration of the Nutrients Watershed Permit, to be reissued in 2024. In correspondence with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, we clarified our expectations for the reissued permit, including nutrient load caps to prevent water quality degradation. Together, we continue to work with the San Francisco Estuary Institute to improve our scientific understanding of how nutrients affect San Francisco Bay water quality. Meanwhile, we continue to promote water recycling and nature-based treatment systems to reduce nutrient discharges.

Although not explicitly identified as a FY 20 – 21 priority for us, last year we increased our engagement regarding per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). State Water Board staff required refineries and municipal wastewater dischargers to monitor PFAS in treatment plant influent, effluent, and biosolids. We convinced those staff to allow our region’s municipal wastewater dischargers to undertake their own PFAS studies. They

completed the first phase of this monitoring during FY 20 – 21, and data analysis and additional monitoring are now underway. Our region’s scientific approach to PFAS monitoring is providing useful information that complements the statewide effort.

Our annual report, “Enforcement Actions and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021/22” (Item 11 on this month’s agenda) summarizes our officewide enforcement accomplishments for FY 20 – 21.

**Toxic Cleanup Division and Groundwater Protection Division (GWPD) Updates**

These two divisions implement the Site Cleanup Program (SCP) to address recent and historic spills from a variety of industrial, manufacturing, and commercial sources. The Toxic Cleanup Division (TCD) also implements the petroleum Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program and supports local agencies that do the same. The GWPD implements our Departments of Defense and Energy Cleanup Program (DoD), which addresses our region’s active and closed military bases and national laboratories. GWPD also implements our Landfill Program, which addresses municipal solid waste landfills and industrial waste management units.

***Cleanup Programs Targets Summary***

For the cleanup programs, we have two performance measures to gauge our effectiveness in restoring and protecting water quality: number of cases closed and number of cases starting active remediation. Results for FY 20 – 21 are provided in the tables below. *Number of Cases Closed* indicates the elimination of threats to human health and water quality. *Number of Cases Starting Active Remediation* indicates the transition from site investigation to actual cleanup leading to the elimination of threats to human health and water quality.

Case closures in the UST program were slightly below target last year because the program is mature and remaining cases are more difficult to reach closure. We expect the rate of case closures to increase somewhat for the remainder of this fiscal year.

**Fiscal Year 20 – 21 Cases Closed by TCD and GWPD**

<b>Cleanup Program</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Percent of Target</b>
SCP	20	25	125
UST	32	28	88
DoD	no target	46	NA
<b>Total*</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>102</b>

\* Percent of target total does not include DoD closures because the DoD program does not have a target for closures.

For the SCP program, cases moving into remediation were below their target due to work slowdown caused by the pandemic. For the current FY, we are on course to exceed our target.

## **Fiscal Year 20 – 21 Cases Starting Active Remediation by TCD and GWPD**

<b>Cleanup Program</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Percent of Target</b>
SCP	20	12	60
UST	5	13	260
DoD	5	7	140
Total	30	32	107

### ***Status of Site Cleanup Program Implementation: Environmental Justice Focus***

This summer staff identified cleanup sites in disadvantaged communities based on historic red-lining practices and a disproportionately high pollution burden and environmental and socioeconomic factors using data from CalEPA's California Communities Environmental Health Screening tool [Cal Enviroscreen](#). We have identified metrics to inform case priorities and progress in these communities. Last month we began reviewing our community engagement approach to identify areas for improvement and we intend to seek feedback from community organizers and organizations to understand their needs.

### ***Status of Source Water Protection Efforts***

We have prioritized the 50 or so affected drinking water supply wells in our region based on if and by how much the contaminant concentrations exceed health-based and other regulatory standards, and where taking drinking water wells offline and/or blending or treating the water are not viable long-term options. We have also identified over a dozen facilities for investigation based on the historic use, storage, or discharge of PFAS materials such as fire-fighting foams. We are communicating and coordinating with water supply agencies, local officials, and the Division of Drinking Water. We have prioritized PFAS impacts in Livermore and Santa Clara Valley supply wells and have issued Site History requests to several upgradient fire-fighting facilities where AFFF fire-fighting foam could have been used/stored in the vicinity of those wells. We expect that the filing of our new site cleanup positions later this year will accelerate our progress.

### ***Status of Per and Polyflouroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Assessments***

In the past year, staff have requested additional groundwater sampling at about a dozen facilities that were directed to provide PFAS information under the State Board's PFAS orders for airports and chrome plating facilities issued in 2019. Staff have also begun reviewing assessment workplans for bulk terminals and refineries submitted per State Board's PFAS order issued last spring. Follow-up investigations have mainly focused on sites with a drinking water nexus, however, the filing of our new site cleanup positions in the next few months will allow staff to develop a broader approach.

### ***Status of Guidance Updates on Vapor Intrusion and Cleanup Case Management***

We expect our internal updated vapor intrusion (VI) guidance to be completed this winter with implementation training beginning in February/March. This update is intended to provide additional guidance on the use of "active" and "passive" mitigation systems discussed in our July 2019 Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Fact Sheet and inform our management decisions about requiring and regulating VI mitigation systems.

The update to our case management guidance and closure criteria was delayed due to vacancies throughout the fall and spring. We expect that work to resume this winter as positions are filled, including a new section in the Toxics Cleanup Division. We have developed a draft groundwater basin prioritization table considering groundwater use, quality, threats, and impairments. This project has important implications for setting cleanup timeframes and granting low-threat case closures, in addition to supporting the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy, and informing waste discharge permitting decisions in other programs.

### ***Land Disposal Program and Mines***

We have prioritized safe redevelopment of our Region's closed landfills that will ensure redevelopment of former waste disposal sites is done in a way that provides long-term protectiveness against water quality impacts and climate change. Presently we continue to monitor groundwater quality at several closed landfills that have been redeveloped for commercial ventures; to date, none of these have shown significant impacts to water quality related to the developments. We also are currently overseeing development activities at the former Oyster Point Landfill, Brisbane Landfill, Santa Clara Landfill and the Burlingame Landfill. Additionally, we continue to focus on mercury mine site cleanups where impacts to our Region's waters are occurring. We have identified and are focusing on three mines that pose the greatest threat to beneficial uses of water. We are in the process of working with the State Board, to assist owners of these high-priority mines to find sources of funding for potential cleanups.

### ***UST (Targets Summary)***

Since last winter we began integrating 42 UST cases transferred to us from two local agencies (San Francisco and Sonoma Counties) that stopped overseeing these cases. This intake effectively increased our UST caseload by 25 percent. Staff have prioritized these cases. Five have been identified as "eligible for closure" and we anticipate they will be closed by the end of this FY. Five others have been identified as "stalled" and will take additional actions by our and State Board staff to move them toward completion.

### ***DOD/DOE - highlights***

We continue to cleanup and close contaminated sites at DoD/DoE facilities that will ensure our Region's contaminated military bases and sites impacted by releases of petroleum, metals, VOCs and PCBs are cleaned up and closed to levels that will be protective of human health and the environment. To date we have increased our efforts at PCB contaminated sediment sites such as, the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard and Oakland Army Base; negotiated expedited PFAS remedial investigations at Travis Air Force Base, Treasure Island Naval Station and Alameda Naval Station; since November 2020 we have closed 22 military sites, or about 6 percent of our caseload and have exceeded our target of bringing sites into active remediation.

### ***Climate Action***

We continue to consider climate change impacts as part of our programs' implementation. Newly issued cleanup orders and waste discharge requirement orders

contain specific requirements to address climate change. For the land disposal program, we are preparing a general order that will cover 21 closed bay front landfills that currently do not have climate change provisions in their orders. Additionally, Board staff are working collaboratively with numerous public, private, and environmental groups to address sea level rise and its impact on shoreline contamination in our region. Part of this effort also includes our work to help fund SFEI's regional mapping of contaminated shoreline sites. This effort would build on the regional groundwater rise mapping project currently underway.