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

REPORT DATE: December 5, 2025

Executive Officer's Report

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Final Petroleum Case Closure, Lennar Mare Island, Vallejo (Jacob T. Henry)

On October 15, the Regional Water Board issued the final petroleum case closure to Lennar Mare Island, LLC for petroleum cleanup at the 675-acre Eastern Early Transfer Parcel. The Navy transferred the parcel at the Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard as part of its Base Realignment and Closure Program for the redevelopment and reuse of former military facilities. This case closure is a significant milestone because it is the last of approximately 240 petroleum cleanups at 14 investigation areas that make up the Eastern Early Transfer Parcel. For two decades, Regional Water Board staff have collaborated with the Department of Toxic Substances Control to oversee all phases of investigation, remediation, and final closeout of the 14 investigation areas. The figure below shows the Parcel and the 14 closed investigation areas, which were created based on the type of contaminants and level of investigation and cleanup required.

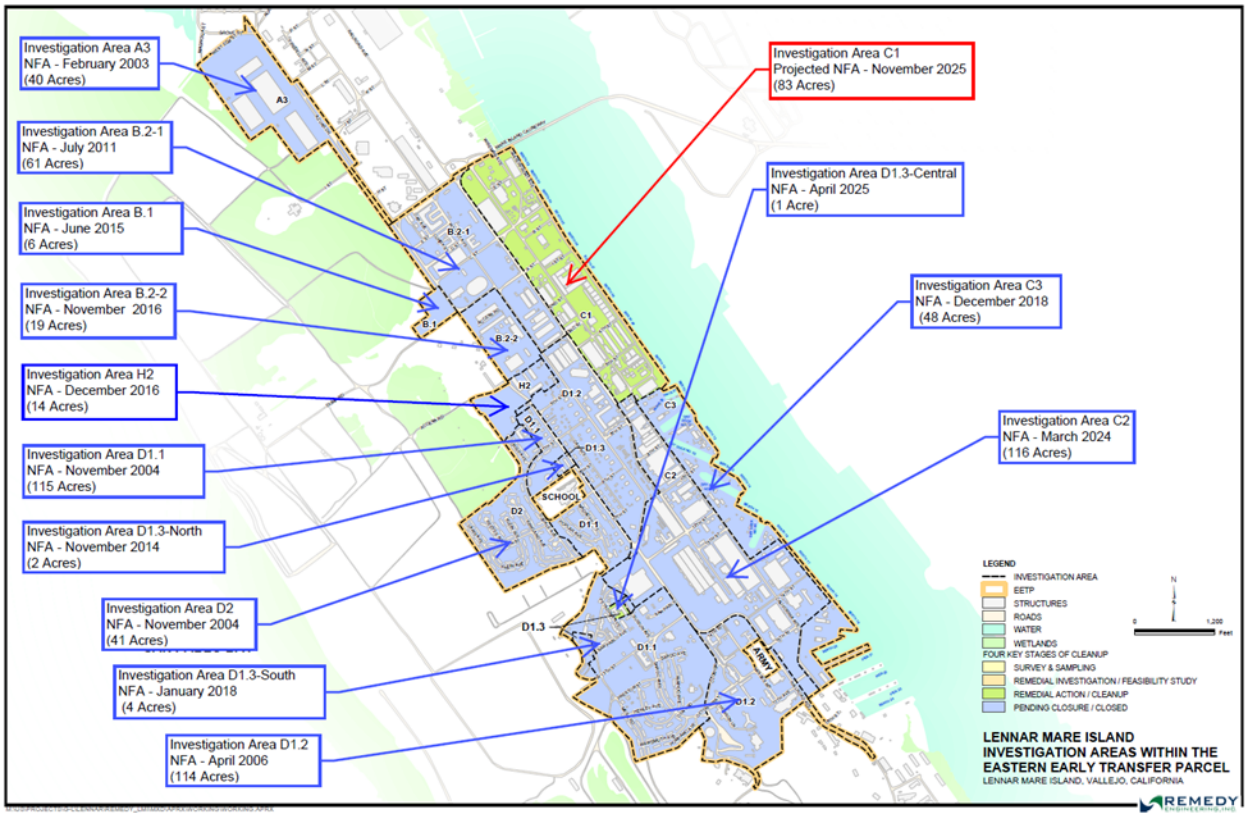

Figure 1: Lennar Mare Island, Eastern Early Transfer Parcel, Investigation Areas labeled with month and year of case closure ("No Further Action" or NFA).

The Navy began environmental restoration at the former base in the early 1990s, and in 2002 carved out the 675-acre Eastern Early Transfer Parcel for transfer to the City of Vallejo, while the Navy resumed environmental restoration of the remaining 4,500 acres. The Eastern Early Transfer Parcel was then transferred to Lennar Mare Island, LLC (City of Vallejo's master developer) through a fee title purchase. Lennar Mare Island, LLC assumed the environmental liability and has diligently remediated the 240 petroleum hydrocarbon sites and over 600 other sites where soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and indoor air had been impacted by volatile and semi-volatile organic

compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, metals, pesticides, and radiological contamination.

This last case closure was issued for two petroleum fuel oil pipelines at Lennar Mare Island, Investigation Area C1, officially completing our oversight of petroleum sites at the Eastern Early Transfer Parcel. The Department of Toxic Substances Control will execute the land use controls by the end of 2025 for Investigation Area C1, officially completing the case closure.

Regional Water Board and Department of Toxic Substances Control staff have supported each other when issues arose, communicating and collaborating regularly to make decisions that held Lennar Mare Island, LLC accountable. Lennar Mare Island, LLC was also an integral partner, ensuring investigation and remediation schedules were met.

The remedial actions completed at the Eastern Early Transfer Parcel will enable the City of Vallejo to redevelop and create a vibrant mixed-use community with new housing, diverse commercial and industrial businesses, and expanded public spaces ensuring the maximum benefit to the environment and the people of Vallejo.

Pier 39 to 43½ Sediment Remediation Project, Year 1 Complete, San Francisco (Ciroos Liaghat)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the Port of San Francisco have completed the first year of a five-year sediment remediation project between Piers 39 and 43½ along the northern shoreline in San Francisco. In 2022, the Regional Water Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R2-2022-0008 requiring cleanup of legacy polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons contamination in this area primarily from the former Beach Street Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP), which operated between 1900 and 1931. This project is the largest sediment remediation effort currently underway in San Francisco Bay.

Figure 1: Sediment remediation project schedule

Figure 2: Site map showing corresponding site features

The cleanup project is being conducted in five phases over five years, with remediation work beginning at the west (Pier 43½) and moving towards the east (East Marina), and with in-water work limited to June 1 through November 30 each year. The sediment remediation project includes a combination of the following approaches depending on site-specific considerations within each work area:

- Focused dredging of contaminated sediment
- Offsite sediment processing at a material handling facility and disposal at permitted landfills
- Placement of engineered caps and/or armor layers in dredged or shoreline areas to isolate residual contamination and protect against erosion (e.g., vessel propeller wash)

During the first year of work in the vicinity of Pier 43½ and Pier 43, approximately 21,500 cubic yards of sediment were dredged; approximately 14,000 tons of amended sand, light filter stone, light armor stone, and heavy filter stone were placed; and slope stability piles and sediment pore water sampling ports were installed. Best management practices were employed to ensure the protection of water quality and public health during work (e.g., turbidity curtain, booms, continuous water quality monitoring). In addition, Regional Water Board staff conducted routine inspections.

Figure 3: Sediment dredging at Pier 43 (Left); stability pile installation (Right).

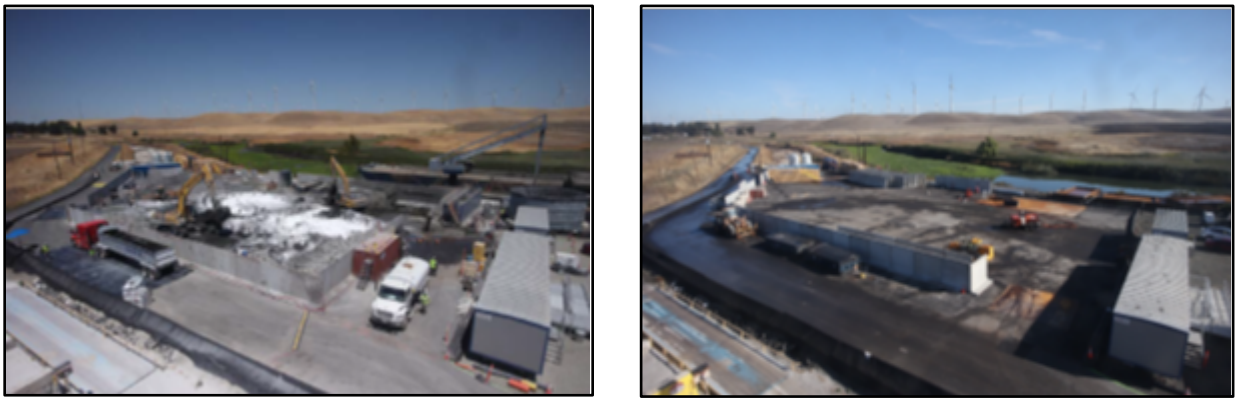

Figure 4: Material handling facility on July 15, 2025 (Left); on October 17, 2025 (Right).

PG&E constructed a material handling facility on the Montezuma Wetlands LLC property in Collinsville, Solano County, which served as the primary location for handling dredged materials. Sediment transported to this material handling facility was dried and prepared for transport to licensed landfills using lined and covered trucks. Free water from barges and water generated during sediment processing were treated on-site using a dedicated water treatment system. Treated water was stored in tanks and reused (e.g., dust control) only after laboratory analyses confirmed concentrations were acceptable. Regional Water Board staff and a third-party environmental consultant under direction of the Regional Water Board regularly inspected the material handling facility to verify implementation of approved compliance plans. Following completion of sediment processing, offsite transportation, and decontamination of the material handling facility, PG&E submitted analytical results of water samples collected from the facility to confirm the site had been adequately cleaned.

In preparation for the next in-water work season in the vicinity of Pier 41 beginning in June 2026, PG&E is required to submit a work plan to the Regional Water Board by January 1, 2026, presenting a detailed plan and schedule of planned remedial action implementation and control, avoidance, and minimization measures to be implemented during remedial operations.

San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program Annual Meeting (Xavier Fernandez)

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay (RMP) was held on October 15, at the David Brower Center in Berkeley. Each year, the RMP holds this meeting to provide updates on monitoring activities addressing a variety of water quality topics in the San Francisco Bay (Bay) and to celebrate the successes of these efforts. This year the RMP annual meeting consisted of four sessions providing updates on water quality in the Bay.

Highlights of the four sessions included:

- An update on the RMP watershed monitoring and modeling, including the development of remote stormwater samplers, and tracking contaminants of concern was provided.
- Xavier Fernandez, Planning Division Manager, discussed the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's actions and priorities to increase beneficial reuse of sediment and soil for habitat restoration projects. Other speakers in the same session covered modeling of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in San Leandro Bay and the RMP communication strategy.
- Results from the fish consumption survey performed as part of the Carquinez Strait Fish and Preservation Project which includes active engagement from the community were presented. Survey results demonstrated similar levels of contaminants in both community and contractor capture of fish confirming consistency and ongoing concerns with existing contaminant levels throughout the Bay.
- An overview of the RMP *Status and Trends Wet Season Pilot Project* with an update on the Bay nutrient science plan was provided. Copies of the *Regional Monitoring Program Update 2025* were available for attendees and will be distributed to our Regional Board Members at our December board meeting.

State of the Estuary Conference (Christina Toms)

The 2025 State of the Estuary Conference was held on October 28-29 at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland, California. Hosted by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) in close coordination with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), this biennial conference brings together community leaders, resource and regulatory agency staff, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and many others to celebrate programs and projects that advance the health and resilience of the San Francisco Estuary.

A key highlight of the conference was the release of an attractive new web-based portal called the State of Our Estuary. This portal was funded by the State Water Board and Delta Stewardship Council and provides high-level summaries as well as detailed status and trends analysis of five categories of key indicators of estuary health: Clean Water, Flourishing Wildlife, Quality Habitat, Resilient Processes, and Thriving Communities. The portal includes a scorecard, an executive summary, and other resources for decision-makers, scientists, and the general public. The portal pulls from and summarizes information from numerous Regional Water Board-supported programs, including the Bay Regional Monitoring Program and Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). The portal describes how most indicators of Bay health are in fair condition and stable, while most Delta indicators are in poor condition and declining.

Planning Division Manager, Xavier Fernandez, helped coordinate a session on advancing the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment to support bayland habitat restoration and flood resilience. This session brought together speakers from SFEI, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to highlight efforts to increase the beneficial reuse of sediment dredged from large federal navigation projects as well as smaller flood control projects.

Water Resource Control Engineer Christina Toms led a session on the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas toolbox which included speakers from SFEI, San Francisco Baykeeper, SFEP, and the City of Emeryville. The toolbox is a series of reports and resources funded by the Water Board and other agencies that propose a science-based framework for where and how different types of natural and nature-based adaptation approaches such as wetlands, beaches, and ecotone[1] levees can be deployed along the Bay's shorelines. The session illustrated how planners, decision-makers, and community members can use the toolbox to develop effective, equitable, and durable strategies for shoreline adaptation.

Christina also helped to coordinate a creative session about the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program that featured nine brief "lightning" talks from SFEI, SFEP, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, U.S. Geological Survey, and UC Davis Otolith Geochemistry and Fish Ecology Lab. The session provided conference attendees with the opportunity to dive into the new WRMP website, as well as key resources like the EcoAtlas WRMP Landscape Profile Tool and the 2020 Baylands Habitat Map. As chair of the WRMP's Technical Advisory Committee, Christina

represented the Regional Water Board as the Baylands Habitat Map team accepted an Outstanding Environmental Project Award from the Friends of the Estuary.

This year's conference also explored the connections between artistic expression, storytelling, and restoration and conservation. Immeasurable and circular benefits of community involvement and stewardship were highlighted in several sessions.

Overall, the 2025 State of the Estuary conference emphasized the Regional Water Board's role as a leader in developing collaborative, innovative science and strategies to support the health and resilience of the region's waters. Staff appreciate the opportunity to participate in the conference and look forward to further engagement with State of the Estuary partners.

[1]Ecotone or "horizontal" levees are vegetated, gently sloping embankments designed to function as a living shoreline. Unlike traditional vertical levees, these hybrid structures combine flood protection with ecological benefits, such as creating high-tide refuge for wildlife and allowing marshes to adapt to sea-level rise by providing space to migrate inland.

Cleanup Status and Future Plans for Former Prosperity Cleaners Site, Marinwood Plaza (Brian Thompson)

Cleanup at the Former Prosperity Cleaners site reached a key milestone for the future of Marinwood Plaza, located at 187 Marinwood Avenue (Property). In an October 2025 Letter, Regional Water Board staff agreed that no further active remediation is needed to cleanup tetrachloroethene (PCE) and its degradation byproducts. This is an intermediate status that helps the Property to be sold and redeveloped, which is something that the property owners, residents, a prospective developer, and Marin County have wanted and is something that is appropriate considering the remediation actions completed and continued need for site monitoring and assessment.

Between 2010 and 2024, the property owners completed a series of remediation activities that have successfully removed or treated PCE in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater. In a January 2025 Letter, Regional Water Board staff denied a request for a no further active remediation determination because feasible remediation of PCE in soil vapor in one area had not been completed. Subsequently, the property owner installed and operated a portable soil vapor extraction system between May and August 2025. A new request for a 'no further active remediation' determination was made after the system was shut down and soil vapor monitoring demonstrated that concentrations have remained low.

The Property may now be sold to a developer that plans to construct a mixed-use apartment complex. This change in land use would trigger further review of site conditions and potential risks that may necessitate additional protective measures. Examples of measures include risk management plans, operation and maintenance of vapor mitigation systems, and deed restrictions. Active remediation would not be required. Residual pollution will continue to be monitored and managed and the Regional Water Board will retain regulatory oversight according to applicable orders (currently Site Cleanup Requirements Orders R2-2020-0025 and R2-2022-0022) until the site is closed.

Intersil-Siemens, Cupertino – Seventh Five-Year Review (Roger Papler)

In September, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) signed a five-year review report for the Intersil-Siemens site in Cupertino and concluded that the ongoing cleanup is protective of human health and the environment. The Regional Water Board is the lead agency for this federal Superfund site and oversees it in coordination with U.S. EPA. This site is one of nine federal non-military Superfund sites that Toxics Cleanup Division staff currently oversee.

From the late 1960s through the 1980s, Intersil and Siemens manufactured semiconductors at this site and used underground sumps and tanks as part of their manufacturing processes. The underground systems leaked and caused a discharge of trichloroethene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane into soil, soil vapor, and groundwater.

Soil vapor extraction and treatment operated from 1988 to 1993 at Intersil and from 1983 to 2005 at Siemens. Groundwater extraction and treatment started in 1987 at Intersil and in 1986 at Siemens and both systems continue to operate. Enhanced bioremediation for groundwater started in 2004 at Siemens and continues to operate. During the last five years, Siemens conducted two additional phases of enhanced bioremediation. While the cleanup has made good progress in most parts of the site, high concentrations remain in groundwater near a source area. This is likely due to pollutants being trapped in low permeability soil (e.g., clay).

To address this area of high concentration, Intersil and Siemens conducted additional investigations. The most recent investigation encountered TCE in groundwater up to 39,000 µg/L. For comparison, this is almost four orders of magnitude greater than the drinking water standard for TCE of 5 µg/L.

The Five-Year Review recommended that the groundwater cleanup should be optimized, and groundwater should be monitored for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Regional Water Board staff are in the process of following up on these recommendations.

Hewlett-Packard, 640 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto – Sixth Five-Year Review (Roger Papler)

In September, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) signed a five-year review report for the Hewlett-Packard site in Palo Alto and concluded that the ongoing cleanup is protective of human health and the environment. The Regional Water Board is the lead agency for this federal Superfund site and oversees it in coordination with U.S. EPA. The site is one of nine federal non-military Superfund sites that Toxics Cleanup Division staff currently oversee.

From the early 1960s to the mid-1980s, Hewlett-Packard manufactured semiconductors at the site and used an underground storage tank for waste solvents. The underground tank leaked and caused a discharge of trichloroethene (TCE) into soil, soil vapor, and groundwater.

Soil vapor extraction and treatment operated from 1994 to 1997. Groundwater extraction and treatment operated from 1982 to 2021. An enhanced bioremediation pilot study was conducted in 2022. The cleanup has made significant progress throughout the site. The most recent monitoring encountered TCE in groundwater up to 1,100 µg/L. For comparison, this is slightly more than two orders of magnitude greater than the drinking water standard for TCE of 5 µg/L.

The Five-Year Review recommended that the groundwater cleanup should be optimized, groundwater should be monitored for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), additional groundwater monitoring should be conducted at the downgradient end of the plume, and additional vapor intrusion evaluations should be conducted. Staff from the Regional Water Board are in the process of following up on these recommendations.

2023 Chlorine Blanket Amendment Saves Wastewater Treatment Plants $1 Million (Kerry O'Connor)

According to a poll conducted by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), municipal wastewater treatment plants across the San Francisco Bay Region reduced their combined sodium bisulfite use by 600,000 gallons between 2023 and 2024, saving $1 million and eliminating several hundred round-trip truck deliveries. These savings arose from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board's adoption of Order R2-2023-0023 in 2023, which targeted the common practice of using excess dechlorination chemicals to meet chlorine effluent limits.

Thirty-seven wastewater treatment plants in the San Francisco Bay Region use chlorine for disinfection. However, chlorine is toxic to aquatic life, so the treatment plants add a dechlorination chemical, typically sodium bisulfite, to neutralize the chlorine before discharge.

Prior to the Order, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board required wastewater treatment plants to meet an instantaneous maximum effluent limit of 0.0 mg/L. Because chlorine excursions above 0.0 mg/L were prohibited at all times, the treatment plants regularly used excess dechlorinating chemicals to ensure compliance. This practice wasted chemicals, increased costs, and unnecessarily discharged excess dechlorinating chemicals to receiving waters with potential negative water quality impacts, such as lowered pH and dissolved oxygen.

The 2023 Order replaced the instantaneous effluent limit with a somewhat less stringent one hour average limit. Basin Plan section 4.5.3 allows "…less stringent limitations…" where "…a comprehensive program approved by the Water Board…" prevents "…unacceptable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the receiving water." The Order required wastewater treatment plants to develop and implement Chlorine Process Control Plans to prevent any adverse impacts on beneficial uses.

In addition to the resource and cost savings already realized, BACWA anticipates wastewater treatment plants will see additional savings in future years as wastewater treatment plants continue to adapt their operations to the flexibility that the new effluent limits provide.

The Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) Annual Report (Agnes Farres)

In October, the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) published its 2025 Annual Report. Keith Lichten, Watershed Division Manager and current chair of the Policy and Management Committee, along with Tami Schane (California Department of Fish and Wildlife's BRRIT representative), presented an overview of the report to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) Governing Board on December 5.

In its fifth Annual Report to the SFBRA Governing Board, the BRRIT reviews its cumulative performance since its inception in August 2019 and highlights achievements over the May 2024 to April 2025 reporting period. The BRRIT was formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay and along the shoreline of the nine Bay Area counties. The BRRIT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also participates on the BRRIT on an ad hoc basis. All seven agencies have agency managers on the Policy and Management Committee, which works closely with the BRRIT to collaboratively identify and resolve policy issues and conflicts.

Projects are eligible to work with the BRRIT if they qualify for the 2016 San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (Measure AA) funding and are entered into EcoAtlas[2]. Of the 35 projects on the BRRIT Project List, 17 projects are in the pre-application phase, 7 projects are in the application phase, 11 projects are fully permitted, and 8 projects completed construction. For this reporting period, the BRRIT completed permitting of Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Novato Deer Island Tidal Wetlands Restoration project, which plans to begin construction in 2026. This project will widen Novato Creek to restore connectivity between Novato Creek and the surrounding floodplain and lower existing levees to restore tidal connectivity to the Bird Ponds (see figure 1 below). The project will also dredge a portion of Novato Creek and beneficially reuse this material to create ecotone slopes in the Bird Ponds.

The BRRIT's primary tool to facilitate permitting is by engaging with projects as early and as often as needed during project planning and design through its pre-application process, and by providing coordinated feedback and recommendations from all the agencies. Examples of the BRRIT's ongoing coordination with projects to facilitate permitting include:

- Facilitating communication between the Marin Audubon Society and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to resolve potential conflicts between the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration Project and PG&E's maintenance, access, and repair of existing infrastructure.

- Working with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Valley Water, and USFWS Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge to provide guidance in support of the Beneficial Reuse of BART Silicon Valley Phase II Tunnel Excavated Material in Marsh Restoration at Former Salt Ponds Project. This guidance included species avoidance and minimization measures for potential night-time work, input on sediment transport methods and infrastructure, options for managing turbidity during sediment placement, and requirements for bioassay testing of tunnel boring material treated with proprietary soil conditioners.
- Coordinating with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a permitting strategy for an urgent levee repair for the South Bay Salt Pond Phase 2 at Eden Landing Project.

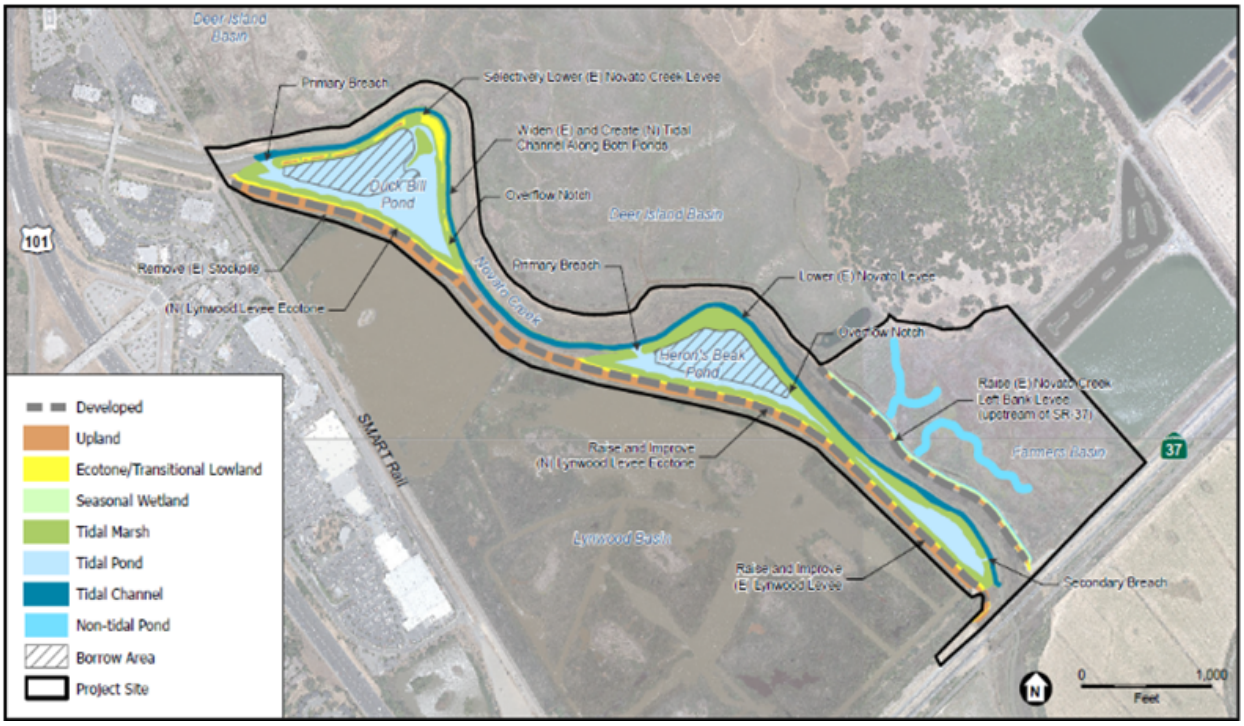

Figure 1: Map of Novato Creek and surrounding floodplain connecting the Duck Bill and Heron's Beak Bird Ponds.

The BRRIT consistently met their agency-specific timelines for issuing permits and consultations and issued all permits in time to meet project construction schedules. The BRRIT also continues to receive positive feedback overall from project proponents. Based on results from this year's surveys, most respondents thought that using the BRRIT resulted in a better project that was more beneficial for species and habitat, recreation, flood protection, and water quality. In the coming year, the BRRIT's anticipated work will include the following:

- Complete permitting for East Bay Regional Park District's Restore Hayward Marsh project, which will beneficially reuse material to restore former wastewater treatment facilities to provide wildlife habitat and resilience to sea level rise. The project will also expand and enhance nesting islands for the state and federally

protected California Least Tern, as the Hayward Marsh has one of the most important breeding populations in the state.

- Complete permitting for the Town of Tiburon's Greenwood Beach Restoration project, which will beneficially reuse material to restore and expand lost beaches to address shoreline erosion, adapt to sea level rise, and improve intertidal habitat for fish and wildlife.
- The Water Board and NOAA Fisheries will collaborate with the agencies to identify opportunities when the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) can support monitoring required by agency permits. The Water Board will work to develop coordinated expectations for agencies by framing the role of the WRMP monitoring with respect to individual projects, with the goal of increasing project coordination with the WRMP.

[2] EcoAtlas is an online toolset for California that provides public access to information about the state's wetlands and streams to support effective wetland management. It integrates maps of aquatic resources, data on wetland condition, restoration project information, and monitoring results to provide a comprehensive picture of aquatic ecosystems. The tools help scientists, regulators, and planners assess, track, and report on California's aquatic resources.

Chinook Salmon in the Sunol Valley in Alameda Creek (Brian Wines)

In the late summer of 2025, the last major barrier to fish passage in Alameda Creek was removed. This barrier consisted of a PG&E pipeline in the Sunol Valley that had been armored with concrete mats in the late 1990s, after creek incision exposed the pipeline. Permitting of the fish barrier removal and construction oversight was provided by CalTrout and the Regional Water Board approved the removal project under the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO). Only a few months after removal of this barrier, a Chinook salmon, pictured in figure 1 below, was photographed upstream of the former barrier, 20 river miles upstream from the Bay and the farthest upstream documented salmon in Alameda Creek in more than 100 years.

In addition to the lone Chinook salmon observed in the Sunol Valley, almost a dozen Chinook have been observed in the Niles Canyon reach of Alameda Creek, about 12 river miles from the Bay. Jeff Miller, the founder of the Alameda Creek Alliance, believes this is the first spawning attempt by Chinook salmon in Alameda Creek in over 30 years.

The Regional Water Board helped CalTrout obtain $506,000 for use in monitoring fish and habitat conditions in the Alameda Creek watershed. The funding was provided by Mission Valley Rock to resolve an enforcement case for a discharge of sediment-laden water to Alameda Creek from its facility in Sunol.

Figure 1: Chinook Salmon in Alameda Creek

Community Engagement (Eileen M. White)

On October 31, Executive Officer Eileen M. White, Groundwater Protection and Waste Containment Division Chief Jessica Watkins, and Engineering Geologist Alyx Karpowicz attended a meeting hosted by Congressman Kevin Mullin at the closed Mussel Rock Landfill in Daly City. The Mussel Rock Landfill contains about 1.5 million cubic yards of landfill waste over about 29 acres and is in a major landslide area and fault zone on the Pacific coastline. The meeting was productive in establishing a common understanding of the site history and recent actions to stabilize the landfill and prevent debris from entering the ocean. Attendees gained an appreciation for the complex environmental challenges and an understanding of the significant resources Daly City has committed toward repairs and long-term planning. With a shared understanding of the issues and the significant funding needed to address the issues, Congressman Mullin noted it calls for coordinated attention across multiple levels of government and he thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. Attendees included Congressman Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Catherine Stefani, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President David Canepa, staff from office of Senator Scott Weiner, One Shoreline CEO Len Materman, California Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Amy Hutzel, and California Coastal Commission Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge.

On November 6, Alyx Karpowicz, Engineering Geologist in the Groundwater Protection and Waste Containment Division, participated on a panel titled *Navigating Rising Waters: Sea Level and Groundwater in the Bay Area* as part of the Bay Planning Coalition's 2025 Water Resources Event. Other panelists were Policy Strategist Dr. Meredith Williams and City of Oakland Chief Resilience Officer Daniel Hamilton. State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel was the keynote speaker, and the closing *Water Agency Perspectives* panel featured Contra Costa Water District, Sonoma Water, and East Bay Municipal Utility District. Alyx Karpowicz discussed the Regional Water Board's work at sites vulnerable to sea level rise and groundwater rise, such as requiring long-term flood protection planning at landfills and industrial facilities, requiring vulnerability assessments at cleanup sites, and considering the potential future impacts of sea level rise and groundwater rise during cleanup case closures. Dr. Meredith Williams provided her perspective as the former head of the Department of Toxic Substances Control on vulnerable sites around the San Francisco Bay area and the evolving understanding and use of science. Daniel Hamilton discussed challenges faced by the City of Oakland, including legacy contamination and ongoing sources of contamination from illegal dumping and the unhoused population.

On November 12, Brian Thompson, Senior Engineering Geologist in the NPDES Division, attended the third meeting of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) collaborative workgroup, which was established through a Memorandum of Understanding between the WOEIP (environmental justice organization), Radius Recycling (metal recycler in West Oakland), and six regulatory agencies (mentioned in the **February 2025 Executive Officer's Report**). The first meeting on June 24 focused on establishing the framework, guidelines, and goals for meetings, and outlined subgroups focusing on specific topics for optimal progress. During the second meeting on August 20, the following subgroups were formed: (1) Community Reporting and Public Messaging, (2) Codifying Best Practices at the Radius

Recycling Facility, (3) Investigating the Full Scope of Contaminants and Potential Impacts to the Community, and (4) Addressing Health Risks and Equity. The Regional Water Board staff joined subgroup 3, and State Water Board staff joined subgroup 2 and subgroup 4. The November meeting began with more in-depth discussions and reports from the various subgroups, which included interesting discussions on the following:

- AB 2851 passed in September 2024 requires air monitoring around the fencelines of metal shredding facilities, the development of threshold levels for airborne contaminants, and the development of procedures for community notifications
- Enforcement taken in May 2025 against a metal recycler in Watts, California resulted in $2 million in restitution and penalties and in closure of the facility (News Release on Atlas Iron and Metal Corp Closure) Governor Newsom vetoed a bill in October 2025 that would have authorized more comprehensive regulation of metal shredders by the Department of Toxic Substances Control due to lack of clarity around hazardous waste requirements (SB 404 Veto)

Staff Updates (Eileen M. White)

Lester Lee was hired as Water Resource Control Engineer in the North Bay Section of the Toxics Cleanup Division, where he will oversee projects in the Underground Storage Tank and Site Cleanup Programs. Prior to this new role, he served as a Scientific Aid in the Toxics Cleanup Division, where he gained valuable hands-on experience managing cleanup cases and supporting staff. Lester earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, where his research focused on the dynamic behavior of volatile chlorinated disinfection by-products in indoor swimming pool facilities. Outside of work, Lester enjoys watching sports, cooking, and hiking with his dog, GiGi.

Sara Jacobs was hired as a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) to lead the TMDL and Basin Planning Section in the Planning Division. She comes with 27 years of experience as an Environmental Engineer at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she worked on many programs and projects in the Superfund and Water Divisions and in the Tribal Programs Office. She has managed over $100 million in grants, contracts, interagency agreements, and enforcement orders and has collaborated with many partners including States (CA, AZ, HI, and NV), Tribes, Pacific Island Territories, federal and local agencies, non-profits, and communities. Sara has a Professional Engineering License in the State of CA, a B.S. in Civil Engineering from UC Davis, and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She lives in the Excelsior District of San Francisco with her husband, 3 fifth-generation San Franciscan kids (two teens and one young adult), and two cats. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, backpacking, and swimming on a Masters team.

After more than 25 years of distinguished service, Bill Johnson, Chief of the NPDES Wastewater Division, is retiring. Despite what an internet search may tell you, there is only one Bill Johnson — a luminary of professionalism, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to water quality at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Bill started with the Regional Water Board in 2000 as an Environmental Scientist in the newly formed TMDL Section in the Planning Division. He empathically hit the ground running, and displaying his superb project management skills, he authored the *Diazinon and Pesticides-Related Toxicity in Bay Area Urban Creeks TMDL* and co-authored the

San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL. His ground-breaking efforts on the pesticides TMDL had a profound, positive impact on the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), which substantially enhanced its attention to urban-use pesticides that are causing or could cause toxicity in urban creeks. That attention continues and DPR now rigorously screens pesticide products and uses for potential adverse water quality impacts.

In 2005, he was promoted to a Senior Environmental Scientist, pivoting to cleaning up wastewater discharges in the NPDES Wastewater Division. There, through firm leadership, he changed the culture of wastewater permitting in the San Francisco Bay Area, holding not only dischargers, but also his staff, to the highest standard. Bill believed permits — and all of the Water Board's work — should be sensible, defensible, and transparent; if you've ever wondered why an NPDES permit fact sheet is four times the length of the permit itself (but always holding the answer to any question you have on the permit's requirements), you can thank Bill.

Demonstrating his keen program management acumen, Bill was the tour de force behind getting the Region out of a substantial backlog of expired NPDES permits. Our reissuance performance continues to be the best in California. Naturally, Bill became Division Chief in 2016. In this role, he helped staff bring forward over one hundred permit issuances and reissuances before the Board, meticulously implementing the TMDLs he once authored and the Water Board's strategic goals in addressing complex issues like nutrient loading in San Francisco Bay.

Bill is also a collaborator. He's so good at it because he's so likable; if he's scolding a discharger for not meeting his standards, it's not uncommon the discharger will feel encouraged to perform better rather than degraded. He commands respect while exuding charm, becoming a trusted voice in the wastewater community and an inspiration to perform at the highest capacity. This, along with his philosophies on sensibility and transparency, is why rarely an NPDES permit is ever contested — an unrecognizable reality from the days before he took command of the NPDES Wastewater Division.

Bill's approach with dischargers in many ways mirrors his approach to leading staff. He challenges staff to think critically and creatively, finding solutions to complex problems within rigid regulations. He is protective of staff yet encourages them to work outside their comfort zone to build confidence, develop professionally, and always strive for that highest standard. He sees potential in staff and helps staff realize that potential in themselves. Staff want to be better because of him. He believes in posterity, making decisions with purpose, not just for the betterment of those in the now, but also for those who will come after him. He is a familiar comfort that we have grown to rely on. It should be of little surprise that many of the leaders at the Regional Water Board were once led by Bill.

We don't deserve to lose Bill, but Bill certainly deserves his retirement. He is truly one of a kind.

Enforcement Actions (Brian Thompson and James Parrish)

The following tables show the proposed and settled enforcement actions since last month's report. As the proposed settlements are pending and could come before the Board, ex-parte communications are not allowed. Please refer to the Pending Enforcement Liabilities and Penalties webpage for more information on the details of the alleged violation and proposed settlement.

Proposed Settlement

The following are noticed for a 30-day public comment period. If no significant comments are received by the deadline, the Executive Officer will sign the order implementing this settlement.

Discharger	Violation(s)	Proposed Penalty	Comment Deadline
City of St. Helena	Discharge limit violations	378,000[1]	December 29, 2025

1 A portion of this penalty ($196,500) would fund the *City of St. Helena Sewer Pipeline Rehabilitation Project*, which will replace the oldest portions of sewer pipe near Sulphur Creek. The project will reduce the risk of inflow and infiltration into the City's sewer system and sewage leaching into groundwater or discharging into Sulphur Creek.

Settled Actions

On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following settlements:

Discharger	Violation(s)	Imposed Penalty	Supplemental Environmental Project
C&H Sugar Company, Inc	Discharge limit violations Odor nuisance Late reports 13383 order violations	$734,000	$374,000[1]
Stuart Depper, Former Glovatorium Facility	Reporting Violations	$17,500	-

1 This amount of the penalty funds the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District's *Crockett Shoreline Flood Mitigation Project*, which will restore the local habitat and improve water quality at the Carquinez Waterfront.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Joseph Martinez)

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from September 11 through November 12, 2025. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Bay Farm Island Emergency Erosion Prevention Project	Alameda	Alameda	X
Bay Ship and Yacht (BSY) Dredging Project	Alameda	Alameda	X
Hornblower Berkeley Marina Dock Maintenance project	Berkeley	Alameda	X
Lands of Righetti Property Development Project	Dublin	Alameda	
Electric Tower Coating Program - 2025 Q4 Bundling	Fremont	Alameda	X
Garaventa Hills Residential Development Project	Livermore	Alameda	
2023 Storms – Site J12d	Livermore	Alameda	
City Of Oakland Fire And Police Dock Maintenance And Upgrade	Oakland	Alameda	X
Merritt Property Residential Age-Qualified Development Project	Pleasanton	Alameda	
Oak Tree Farm Outfall Repairs and Channel Stabilization, CIP No. 24677	Pleasanton	Alameda	
2023 Storms – Site M7 Repairs	Unincorporated	Alameda	
2023 Storm Repairs – Site J12c	Unincorporated	Alameda	
2025 (20) High-Tide Refuge Islands for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project	Multiple	Alameda, San Mateo	X
MOTCO Rails Bid Package 3	Concord	Contra Costa	
Refugio Lake Restoration Project	Hercules	Contra Costa	
San Pablo Dam Road Storm Drain-Pavement Repair Project	Orinda	Contra Costa	
East Brother Light Station Pier and Gangway Repair	Richmond	Contra Costa	X
Highland Road Erosion Repair	Unincorporated	Contra Costa	
57 West Shore Waterfront Improvement Project	Belvedere	Marin	X
15 West Shore Waterfront Improvements Project	Belvedere	Marin	X
State Route 37 Novato Creek Bridge Replacement Project	Novato	Marin	

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
516 Canal Street	San Rafael	Marin	X
Reed Creek Emergency Flood Wall Stabilization	Unincorporated	Marin	
Redwood Road MPM 2.3 Stitch pile Project	Napa	Napa	
EA-4X530 NAP 29 PM 23.54 Culvert Failure	Unincorporated	Napa	
Blue Heron Lake Boatshed Replacement Project	San Francisco	San Francisco	
Sf-80 Pier Fender Replacement Project (Ea 04-0w140)	Unincorporated	San Francisco	X
PG&E I-814A L-109 MP 23.3-30.77 ILI Upgrade Project, Location G	Hillsborough	San Mateo	
Wurr Road, Pescadero Creek Road, And Cloverdale Road Culvert Repairs Project	Multiple	San Mateo	
East Third Avenue Landfill (Seal Point Park)	San Mateo	San Mateo	X
413 Fulton Creek And Deck Repairs Project	San Mateo	San Mateo	
Emergency Culvert Replacement Project	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
Entrada Way Culvert Slip-out Bank Stabilization Project	Unincorporated	San Mateo	
West Union Creek - Emergency Bank Repair	Woodside	San Mateo	
Woodside Elementary School Creek Bank Stabilization Project	Woodside	San Mateo	
Geotechnical Borings for the Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area Project	Mountain View	Santa Clara	X
Silicon Valley Village Mobile Home Park	San Jose	Santa Clara	
Aldercroft Heights Road Bridge Replacements Project	Unincorporated	Santa Clara	
City of Suisun City Fishing Dock Replacement Project	Suisun City	Solano	
2025 Geotechnical Borings at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal	Vallejo	Solano	X
Primary Influent Pump Station (PIPS) Parallel Force Main Project	Petaluma	Sonoma	
Camp 4 Pump Replacement Project	Unincorporated	Sonoma	