



Project Background

Staff from the Planning and Toxics Divisions is engaged in a cross-division project to identify and evaluate possible PCBs-contaminated sites for cleanup. This project's goal is to make progress addressing PCBs loading to stormwater from contaminated sites and to achieve reductions in loading of PCBs to the Bay. Information learned from this project will help inform cleanup of PCBs at contaminated upland sites in Region 2 (R2).

The project includes the following tasks:

1. **PCBs Site Triage:** Staff will review closed R2, DTSC, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) cleanup cases to check for potential PCBs impacts that were not considered during previous agency oversight. In 2016, staff included potential PCBs sites referred by Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) Permittees in this review as well.
2. **San Leandro Bay Joint Initiative with U.S. EPA:** In September 2013, the U.S. EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) unit and the Water Board agreed to collaborate on a joint initiative to reduce PCBs loading to San Francisco Bay consistent with the SF Bay PCBs TMDL, by identifying potential contaminated sites within the San Leandro Bay watershed that require remediation and using our authorities to gather information and oversee the necessary remediation of these sites.
3. **PCBs Toolbox:** Staff will develop tools to assist R2 staff in overseeing PCB-impacted sites.

Status of work completed in 2017 by task

Task 1: PCB Site Triage

An inventory of sites with PCBs listed as a pollutant was created in 2015. This list includes sites with ongoing investigations and those listed as closed. The team developed a triage scheme and applied it to the approximately 185 sites in the inventory.

Actions taken in 2017

In 2017, the team collectively focused on existing triage sites in Richmond and San Jose that are high priorities for MRP Permittees and one new site, World Oil, which became a high priority site based on data submitted by the permittees. At these sites, team members conducted site visits and reviewed the available records of others, but did not find cause to require PCBs investigations. Of the "referral sites," two progressed towards PCBs remediation. Findings and actions to date are summarized below:

- Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) property, Leo Avenue, San Jose. Staff approved UPRR's soil investigation work plan. UPRR completed the investigation and has discussed follow up actions with staff. We expect a remedial action work plan in February 2018.
- World Oil, 1014 Chesley Avenue, Richmond: MRP Permittees sampled stormwater and found high levels of PCBs (647 ug/Kg) in water discharging from this site. Previously designated as low priority, World Oil became a top priority in 2017. We issued a Water Code Section 13267 request for a workplan to characterize PCBs in site soils and document



surface water flow paths across the site. A workplan was submitted, and was under review as the year ended.

- Rickert International, 135 Cutting Blvd, Richmond: This site was a hydraulic equipment dealer and is located where elevated PCBs have been detected in rights-of-way (ROW). Staff viewed the site from the ROW in July 2017 and found it to be entirely paved and fenced, and apparently not operational. Existing data do not indicate a clear link between the site and PCBs in the ROW. Absent further information, staff reclassified this site as a low priority for follow up, pending any follow up by Contra Costa County MRP Permittees.
- H & H Recycling, 901 Sanford Avenue, Richmond: Contra Costa MRP Permittees requested the Water Board to investigate this site, located adjacent to World Oil, because stormwater sampling near the site found very high PCB levels (1338 ug/Kg). Staff are deferring action because there is no viable property owner and the nexus to PCBs in ROW is unclear. Staff is scheduled to discuss this site with Permittees in February 2018 and will determine next steps at that time.
- Bonner Drum, 820 Gertrude, Richmond, across the street from Chevron complex: This site consists of an undeveloped wetland area at the end of Gertrude, owned by Chevron. High PCBs concentrations (473 & 700 ppb) have been found in the ROW along Gertrude by MRP Permittees, although the nexus to the Bonner Drum site is unclear. Staff is scheduled to discuss this site with Permittees in February 2018 and will determine next steps at that time.
- SIMS Metal, 600 S. 4th, Richmond: Water Board Industrial Stormwater staff outlined that SIMS stores and reuses all its stormwater and is building an advanced treatment unit to treat stormwater in 2017/18. In addition, SIMS conducts daily street sweeping and has equipment to control vehicle track out. Staff stated that the only potential ongoing source of PCBs could be a recyclable material pile on site, via wind. We expect any further action will be taken by Industrial Stormwater staff, pending discussions with Permittees in February 2018.
- Oakland triage sites. Staff reviewed all available information on several Oakland high priority sites referred to the Water Board by MRP Permittees, including ACM Asbestos Abatement, Custom Alloy Scrap Sales, and Giampolini property, and has found no reason to take action to eliminate ongoing PCBs sources. We reclassified these sites as “no action.”

In addition, Toxics Division staff continued ongoing work on cleanup of the PCBs sites below. These sites are on the triage list, but were already in the cleanup process when the list, and this cross-divisional project, was developed.

- Crane Cove Park, Pier 70 San Francisco: Upland PCBs sources were remediated in previous years. The first phase of in-Bay sediment capping was completed in 2017. Phase II capping of sediment further off shore will be conducted in 2018.
- 900 Innes, San Francisco: This former boat yard in the Bayview/ Hunters Point area has PCBs and metals in the upland and Bay sediments. An interim remedial remedy has recently been completed, which entailed limited dredging followed by capping in the channel. In 2018, the remedy will be reviewed and approved as appropriate, and necessary permits will be sought for remedial actions, which may include treatment of channel sediments with activated carbon to reduce the bioavailability of PCBs.



- Delta Star/Tiegel, San Carlos: Design and construction of a cap of the entire site was delayed in 2017 but is expected to be completed in the spring of 2018.
- Facciola, 391 Demeter Street, East Palo Alto: Remedial action, consisting of regrading and hydroseeding a PCBs-containing soil pile, was completed in 2017. Because site development is anticipated in the next few years, an interim vegetated soil cap was constructed across the entire site. A deed restriction and associated site management plan are in development. No further action needed.
- Novartis/Grifols, Emeryville, near Temescal Creek: Soil in the walking path (former rail spur) where PCBs were detected at up to 74 mg/kg was removed. This year the removal action for the impacted soil was completed. A deed restriction and associated site management plan are in development. No further action needed.
- Westinghouse North Heritage Square Parcel, Emeryville: PCBs-soil removal and construction of a multi-level parking garage are complete. A deed restriction and associated site management plan are in development. No further action needed.

Task 2: San Leandro Bay Initiative

In 2017, staff reviewed analytical results from samples collected in the channel by UPRR and discussed remedial alternatives, permitting issues, property ownership, and other issues with UPRR, U.S. EPA, and contractors. Channel sediments were sampled at three depths along 27 transects. In most locations, the highest PCBs concentrations were at the surface, rather than in deeper sediments. PCBs, as a sum of nine aroclors, were detected as high as 33,600 ug/kg but were largely one or two orders of magnitude lower than that. In 2018, staff expects to issue 13267 letter(s) requiring interim remedial action in the channel.

Task 3: PCBs Toolbox

In 2017, work on this task included the following tasks:

- The team's Scientific Aid created a spatial database of San Francisco Bay sediment PCBs concentrations, fulfilling a need to capture information from numerous sources in one useful format. This tool helps us visualize current PCBs concentrations in Bay sediments and provides useful information to our partners working on PCBs TMDL implementation and cleanup projects.
- The team obtained a geospatial dataset that reflects the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CRFS is a coordinated sample survey designed to gather data from all modes of marine recreational finfish fishing. We anticipate the information will be useful for demonstrating that fishing occurs at many locations along the entire San Francisco Bay perimeter.
- Watershed Division consulted with TMDL staff during the development of a general permit for releases of utility vault water to storm drains. TMDL staff reviewed resulting sampling data collected by PG&E in May 2017. Eleven vaults in our region were sampled and analyzed for 209 PCBs congeners at the picogram/liter detection level. The data indicate that total PCBs ranged from nondetect to the low parts per trillion (ng/L). No vault water with detected PCBs was discharged to creeks.



- TMDL staff provided MRP permit language related to controlling PCBs during demolition to State Board staff who may consider the MRP requirements when drafting the general construction stormwater permit. Staff also requested the update of the R2 spill response protocol include notifying the PCBs TMDL contact of spills of PCBs and mineral oil. Staff will pass along such spill notifications to the stormwater program manager in the municipality where the spill occurred.
- The team completed the fact sheet "[Identifying PCBs in Industrial Settings](#)" to help industrial stormwater inspectors identify potentially PCBs-containing materials and understand PCBs labels.
- The team updated the "[San Francisco Bay PCBs TMDL – What to do when PCBs are present in soil](#)" fact sheet, with input from the Groundwater Division.