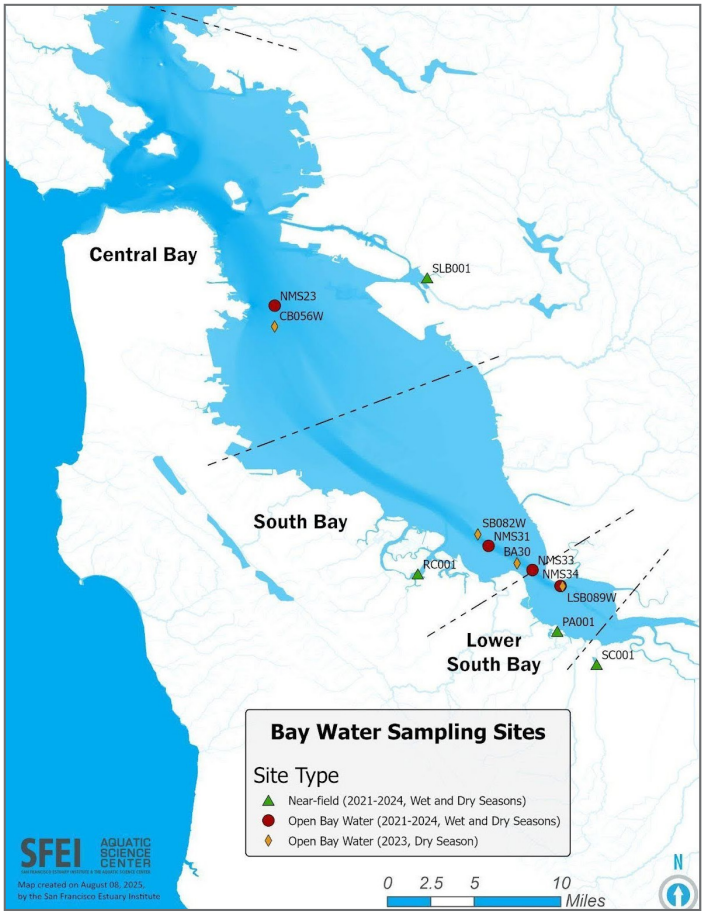
RMP REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR WATER QUALITY IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY
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Plain Language Summary

Emerging Contaminants in Bay Water in the Wet Season

Monitoring San Francisco Bay water during the wet season (October–April) provides information about contaminants carried to the Bay in stormwater. In 2010, the RMP halted long-term wet season water monitoring. Growing concern over less-regulated emerging contaminants in stormwater runoff led to piloting new wet-season monitoring efforts from 2021–2024.



Key Points

- The pilot targeted two high-concern groups of contaminants in the Bay: PFAS (widely-used and also called **forever chemicals**) and **OPEs** (plastic additives/flame retardants). We also tested moderate-concern plastic additives (**bisphenols**).
- **PFAS levels in wet season samples were about 50% higher** than during the dry season. Samples collected closer to shore had higher levels and more types of PFAS.
- The **South Bay had higher PFAS levels** than the Central Bay, which matches previous studies.
- Plastic additives weren't analyzed because of problems with the data.

Implications and Future Directions

These results reinforce the importance of stormwater as a pathway carrying PFAS to the Bay. The RMP will continue wet season water sampling both near the bayshore and in the open Bay for PFAS and plastic additives. The sampling efforts could also be useful for other emerging contaminants.

For the full report, see: Trinh, M.; Kleckner, A.; Davis, J.; Gilbreath, A.; Yee, D.; Méndez, M.; Miller, E.; Sutton, R. & Dougherty, J. 2026. Regional Monitoring Program Status and Trends Wet Season Water Monitoring Pilot Study. SFEI Contribution No. 1264. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA