



**Bay RMP Technical Review Committee Meeting**  
September 10, 2020 - San Francisco Estuary Institute

Meeting Summary

**Attendees (all participants remotely attending)**

<b>TRC Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Yuyun Shang	EBMUD	POTW	<b>yes</b>
Mary Lou Esparza	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	POTW	<b>yes</b>
Tom Hall	EOA, Inc.	POTW	<b>yes</b>
Ross Duggan	City and County of SF	CCSF	<b>no</b>
Anne Hansen Balis	City of San Jose	POTW	<b>yes</b>
Bridgette DeShields*	Integral Consulting	Refineries	<b>yes</b>
Chris Sommers	BASMAA (EOA, Inc.)	Stormwater	<b>yes</b>
Shannon Alford	Port of San Francisco	Dredgers	<b>no</b>
Richard Looker	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	<b>yes</b>
Luisa Valiela	US EPA	US EPA -IX	<b>yes</b>
Ian Wren	Baykeeper	NGOs	<b>yes</b>
Tessa Beach	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	<b>yes</b>

\*Chair; alternates in gray and italicized

**Staff and Others**

- Tan Zi - SFEI
- Becky Sutton - SFEI
- Ezra Miller - SFEI
- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Melissa Foley - SFEI
- Miguel Mendez - SFEI
- Nina Buzby - SFEI
- Don Yee - SFEI
- Paul Salop - AMS

## Introductions and Review Agenda

Melissa Foley went through a quick roll call with the meeting participants. None of the committee members had any general questions concerning the day's agenda.

## Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from June 24, 2020, and Confirm/set Dates for Future Meetings

There were no comments on the previous meeting's summary. Melissa Foley then reminded the group of upcoming meeting dates, specifically the October Multi-Year Planning meeting held with the Steering Committee. Calendar invites for 2021 TRC meetings were sent to committee members, but official dates will be confirmed at the December 2020 meeting.

### **Decision:**

- Richard Looker moved to approve the June 24, 2020 meeting notes. Mary Lou Esparza seconded the motion, the motion was carried by all present members.

## Information: Steering Committee (SC) Meeting Summary from July 22, 2020

Melissa Foley reviewed the highlights from the July SC meeting. The SC discussed the ongoing topic of program fees, agreeing that while 2022 fees will not include an increase, it would be beneficial to plan on normal 3% increases for 2023 and 2024. In response to the updated WG structure proposed by the TRC, the SC settled on a compromise. The SC agreed to maintain the microplastics strategy budget, while reducing the funding for the workgroup (MPWG) and have the group hold more of a 'workshop' to bring together stakeholders and identify external funding sources for priority data gaps.

TRC members asked for further details on the SC decision to reduce funding for the MPWG. Melissa explained that the Water Board does not currently consider microplastics a management priority, though dischargers maintain an interest in learning more about potential effects. The strategy funding would cover strategy development and serve as a key coordinating document for obtaining external funding. The SC did not discuss whether RMP funds would be allocated to MPWG special studies in 2022. This discussion will need to happen at the Multi-Year Planning Workshop.

The SC approved the TRC special studies recommendations, with two contingencies. First, the SC reduced the funding to contribute to a manuscript of the MP ecotox workshop. However,

Melissa noted that Central San has offered to provide additional funds to cover these costs, and the RMP will provide additional funds to fill in remaining gaps. The second hesitation from the SC was on the DMMO database enhancement study. Because the dredgers and USACE expressed little need in the database, the SC wanted more details on the specific uses the enhancements would allow.

The SC meeting also included a brainstorm on MYP meeting agenda items and the Committee decided to form a subgroup to plan the agenda in further detail. Melissa asked if TRC members were interested in contributing to the meeting, and added that they should feel free to comment once the agenda gets sent out.

## **Information: Status and Trends Review Update**

Melissa Foley informed the meeting participants of the S&T review water matrix expert meeting held the previous Thursday and Friday. The first day's discussions focused on management priorities, the existing water design, CEC-specific priorities, and results of the power analysis. The second day focused on draft wet and dry season sampling designs. For the TRC, Melissa specifically went through the proposed wet sampling design that would involve both targeted and probabilistic sampling. Jay Davis added that the impetus for developing wet season sampling came from the non-target analysis of water special study and recent sampling of CECs in stormwater. Melissa also detailed the proposed changes to dry season sampling, noting the main change would involve foregoing PCB and legacy pesticides monitoring except for those included in CTR sampling every 10 years.

Melissa noted that there are still a number of details to work out following the meeting with experts and next steps would focus on incorporating meeting feedback and further evaluating the performance of current and revised sampling designs. Tom Hall asked if the meeting included a discussion of legacy pesticides. Melissa gave further details that legacy pesticides and PAHs would also likely roll into CTR sampling. Jay also commented that water is not the key management matrix for legacy pesticides; monitoring biota is the highest priority.

### **Action Items:**

- Share S&T meeting recording with TRC members. (Melissa Foley, 9/30/20)

## **Discussion: Status and Trends Sampling for 2021**

Melissa Foley gave an overview for the TRC of the upcoming year's sampling plan, specifically pointing out changes to analytes, labs, or stations. Related to bird eggs, the USGS is looking for alternative sites for cormorant egg collection at Wheeler Island, due to site access challenges and a shrinking colony. Tern sites are likely to be located in the Lower South Bay, and the USGS will likely choose the four sites based on the size of the nesting colonies. Any sites that can be maintained from previous sampling will be the highest priorities. Melissa suggested that the USGS conduct dissections for both egg types to eliminate additional shipping and permitting steps with the international analytical lab - SGS AXYS. Jay noted the missed opportunity to

have a redesign discussion prior to bird egg sampling; as adding legacy pesticides to cormorant analytes would help monitor recovery trends for these analytes. Along this line of thinking, Mary Lou Esparza suggested archiving the samples until there is a better direction from the redesign. Ian Wren and Luisa Valiela supported this idea, commenting on the particular importance of archived tissue given the level of change currently happening from the pandemic and wildfires. After some additional discussion the group agreed to further discuss analytes and sites at the December TRC meeting.

While reviewing the analytes and number and type of sites for water sampling, Tom Hall asked about the benefits of sampling outside of the Golden Gate. In addition to being a site of interest for the NMS, Becky Sutton also noted the importance of the samples in providing a boundary condition for modeling efforts. When asked about the potential analyte list, the TRC had a few comments. Tom Hall reasoned that cyanide and aquatic toxicity may not provide valuable data given the consistent ND results in recent rounds. The group supported moving legacy pollutants to the CTR cycle and keeping the current schedule for sampling CTR pollutants in 2025, as well as the addition of bisphenols and OPEs to the list of analytes for water.

The other concern for water sampling in 2021 is vessel availability. The RV Turning Tide may not be available for use in 2021. Melissa informed the committee members of the recently signed amendment with the USGS for the RV Peterson that will run through fiscal year 2021 for nutrients work. She also noted that in the absence of the RV Questary (SFSU), the RMP has been contracting a boat from Dixon Marine for the North Bay selenium sampling, which has been successful.

## Information: Preview of Annual Meeting Presentations

Three relatively new RMP staff members - Ezra Miller, Tan Zi, and Miguel Mendez - practiced their presentations for the upcoming RMP Annual Meeting, soliciting feedback from the TRC. Ezra presented first on existing and future plans related to the class of PFAS chemicals. The class has recently come into the public eye and prompted management actions, although the knowledge is primarily around two specific chemicals - PFOS and PFOA. There is less known about the level of occurrence as well as impacts of other chemicals and PFAS mixtures. Ezra noted that the RMP is prioritizing stormwater and wastewater monitoring. The TRC feedback on Ezra's presentation focused on the messaging related to existing sport fish and prey fish data. The group encouraged Ezra to coordinate closely with OEHHA to ensure that the messaging is consistent. The meeting participants also commented on a few graphic details and presentation style aspects, with general praise for the presentation as a whole.

Tan Zi then presented his modeling work, specifically stormwater contaminant loading. The presentation, part of which Tan will also present at CASQA, covered a range of efforts. For example, he described a process evaluating green stormwater infrastructure and trees as potential treatment sources. The TRC members noted that given the subject matter, the pace of the presentation was somewhat intimidating, particularly given that the Annual Meeting often

encompasses a broader audience. The group suggested that Tan highlight his successful iconography and reveal the take home message earlier in the talk.

Finally, Miguel presented on another class of chemicals currently in the spotlight - quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs). Within the class, Miguel focused on those found in antimicrobial products known as BACs and DADMACs, given their applicability to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to covering the contaminants pathways and fate, Miguel discussed current and future efforts that SFEI is involved in. The committee members generally encouraged Miguel to include more detail in the talk and expand on the connection with “covid-products”.

## **Discussion: Communications Update**

Jay briefly reminded the meeting participants of the two upcoming Estuary News articles as well as the finalization of the Annual Meeting (AM) agenda. The majority of the item was spent discussing the draft RMP Update that was sent out to the group with the meeting’s agenda package. Jay explained the plan to publish the PDF version at the Annual meeting and then have the printed version available upon request. In response to the draft, the TRC participants had positive responses and provided a few detailed comments. Yuyun Shang highlighted that EBMUD utilizes the publication and would be sure to have other folks at the organization look at the draft.

## **Information: Status of Deliverables and Action Items**

Melissa began the item by notifying the TRC of a few updated deadlines due to pandemic-related delays such as lab closures. She also highlighted upcoming deliverables, and explained that the current pressing action items mostly related to the upcoming MYP meeting. The meeting participants appreciated Melissa’s updated and more streamlined way of presenting the topic.

## **Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

The main item brought up during the meeting was to further discuss the tern egg sampling design for status and trends monitoring. Luisa Valiela also brought up a broader topic of accounting in future budgets for wildfires. Given that large wildfires are becoming more prevalent, the group agreed that it would be beneficial to discuss this topic at the upcoming MYP workshop and then have a more in-depth discussion at the December TRC meeting. Chris Sommers added two related ideas that the wildfire discussion could prompt - specifically the potential for coordination between monitoring groups to establish a statewide level of communication, as well as better understanding of the potential water quality impacts of fires.

## **Adjourn**