

March 11, 2008

To: Technical Review Committee

From: Meg Sedlak

Re: PAH analyses in water for 2008

As part of the redesign of the RMP in 2006, it was recommended that organics in water be analyzed every other year (e.g, pesticides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls) with one exception. As there is little information on polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), it was recommended that they be analyzed annually.

On November 7th 2007, the Cosco Busan spilled approximately 58,000 gallon of bunker fuel oil into San Francisco Bay. Strong tidal currents moved much of the spilled material out into the Central Bay and out the Golden Gate. Extensive assessments were undertaken by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Natural Resources Damage Assessment Team and the Oil Spill Response Team.

Based on the information available to date, it is likely that the volatile fractions of the bunker fuel dissipated in the first several weeks. It is anticipated that floating tar balls are still present but will diminish over time as they degrade and dispersed.

We are proposing RMP sampling to confirm the hypothesis that no significant concentrations of PAHs remain in the water column. The cost to do this analysis for the 22 stations is approximately \$17,000 and has been included in the existing 2008 budget. The rationale for inclusion of all 22 stations is to provide a context for interpreting water column results from the areas impacted (e.g., Central Bay) with other portions of the Bay that were likely unaffected (e.g. Suisun Bay).