Joint Workshop:
The Nexus Between Nutrient Removal Requirements and Water Recycling

Melody LaBella, WateReuse NorCal Chapter President

April 29, 2025

Thank you to our Planning Team!

- WateReuse Association NorCal Chapter
  - Reena Thomas, EBMUD
  - Claudia Llerandi, Kennedy Jenks
  - Courtney Rubin, West Yost
- BACWA/BACWA Recycled Water Committee
  - Lorien Fono, BACWA
  - Mary Cousins, BACWA
  - Stefanie Olson, DSRSD
  - Sarah Reynolds, EBMUD

Thank you to our sponsors!

Why are we here today?

Bay Area Nutrients Watershed Permit

- On July 10, 2024, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an Order requiring all Bay Area wastewater agencies to reduce their discharge of total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) 40%, relative to 2022, by October 2034.
- This regulation applies to the dry season, which has been defined as May 1 to September 30 of each year.

Regional Water Board adopts permit requiring critical investments to protect San Francisco Bay

Necessary sewage treatment upgrades over next decade will limit threat of 'red tides' that endanger water quality, aquatic species

July 10, 2024 **Contact:** Blair Robertson—Information Officer

OAKLAND – To help protect water quality and aquatic life in San Francisco Bay for generations to come, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a permit today that will for the first time require nutrient reductions for all wastewater treatment plants discharging into the bay.

The new permit, adopted under the Clean Water Act after years of monitoring and research, will go into effect Oct. 1. It requires that 40 sewage treatment plants must collectively reduce nitrogen discharges by 40% compared to 2022, when a "red tide" harmful algal bloom (HAB) triggered a massive fish kill in the San Francisco Bay. Nutrients are discharged into the bay from sewage treatment plants' wastewater. Excessive nutrients are a major contributor to HABs, which cause a dramatic depletion in dissolved oxygen levels, killing aquatic species.

Toxins from HABs can cause illnesses through direct contact, inhalation, and fish and shellfish poisoning. HABs can be particularly devastating to indigenous communities and subsistence fishers.

The Nexus Between Nutrient Removal Requirements and Water Recycling	
9:30 – 10:00 am	**Refreshments and Networking**
10:00 – 10:20 am	**Welcome/Introductions** Melody LaBella, President, WateReuse Northern California Chapter Roger S. Bailey, General Manager, Central San/WateReuse California Association President
10:20 – 10:40 am	**Overview of the Bay Area Nutrient Watershed Permit** Lorien Fono, Executive Director, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
10:40 – 11:00 am	**Compliance Milestone Reporting for the Bay Area Nutrient Watershed Permit** Mike Falk, Wastewater Lead, HDR
11:00 – 11:30 am	**How Permitting Can Support or Disincentivize Water Recycling** Jan Lee, General Manager, Dublin San Ramon Services District
11:30 – 12:30 pm	**Lunch and Networking**
12:30 – 1:00 pm	**Advanced-Treated Recycled Water: How it Can Help with Nitrogen Reduction** Sanjay Reddy, Senior Vice President, Carollo Engineers
1:00 – 1:40 pm	**RO Concentrate Management** Eric Dunlavey, Deputy Director, City of San José Medi Sinaki, Senior Engineer, Valley Water
1:40 – 2:40 pm	**Opportunities for Collaboration** Eric Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer, Envirospectives Dave Smith, Founder and Principal, Water Innovations Services
2:40 – 2:55 pm	**Legislative and Regulatory Update** Rosario Cortes, Manager of Regulatory Affairs, WateReuse California Association
2:55 – 3:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Melody LaBella, President, WateReuse Northern California Chapter

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Welcome from Central San General Manager and WateReuse California Association President Roger S. Bailey