

PCB Strategy: PCB Strategy Coordination and Technical Support

Oversight group: PCB Workgroup
Proposed by: Jay Davis, SFEI

Proposed Funding: \$10,000

Proposed Deliverables And Timeline

Deliverable	Due Date
Updated PCB Multi-Year Plan	Jun 2020

Introduction and Background

The RMP PCB Strategy Team formulated a PCB Strategy in 2009. The Team recognized that a wealth of new information had been generated since the PCBs TMDL Staff Report (SFBRWQCB 2008) was prepared. The Strategy articulated management questions to guide a long-term program of studies to support reduction of PCB impairment in the Bay.

The 2014 update of the PCB Strategy called for a multi-year effort to implement the recommendations of the PCB Synthesis Report (Davis et al. 2014) pertaining to:

1. identifying margin units that are high priorities for management and monitoring,
2. development of conceptual models and mass budgets for margin units downstream of watersheds where management actions will occur, and
3. monitoring in these units as a performance measure.

A thorough and thoughtful effort is warranted given the large expenditures of funding and effort that will be needed to implement management actions to reduce PCB loads from urban stormwater. The goal of RMP PCB Strategy work over the next few years is to inform the review and possible revision of the PCB TMDL and the reissuance of the Municipal Regional Permit for Stormwater (MRP), both of which are tentatively scheduled to occur in 2020.

The multi-year plan for studying PCBs in the margins has three components: conceptual model development, field studies to support/confirm the models, and initiation of trend monitoring. Conceptual model development for a set of four representative priority margin units will provide a foundation for establishing an effective and efficient monitoring plan to track responses to load reductions and also help guide planning of management actions. Preliminary field studies and trend monitoring will be phased in as the level of funding for the PCB Strategy allows.

Study Objective and Applicable RMP Management Questions

The objective of this task is to provide coordination and technical support for continuing development of the PCB Strategy. This task would therefore address all of the questions articulated in the Strategy.

1. What are the rates of recovery of the Bay, its segments, and in-Bay contaminated sites from PCB contamination?
2. What are the present loads and long-term trends in loading from each of the major pathways?
3. What role do in-Bay contaminated sites play in segment-scale recovery rates?
4. Which small tributaries and contaminated margin sites are the highest priorities for cleanup?
5. What management actions have the greatest potential for accelerating recovery or reducing exposure?
6. What are the near-term effects of management actions on the potential for adverse impacts on humans and aquatic life due to Bay contamination?

The task would also address many of the overarching RMP management questions.

Tasks for 2020

Consult with PCB Workgroup and update multi-year plan in support of the TMDL (\$10K)

Funds for this task would enable SFEI to continue to consult with the PCB Workgroup and the Small Tributary Loadings Strategy Team regarding plans for the next iteration of the TMDL and RMP activities that can inform the TMDL. Funds would also support small-scale synthesis of information that is needed to support these discussions. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables aimed at providing a technical foundation for the next iteration of the TMDL.

Timing and Deliverables: An updated PCB multi-year plan in June 2020. The plan will include a multi-year schedule of budgets and deliverables.

References

Davis, J.A., L.J. McKee, T. Jabusch, D. Yee, and J.R.M. Ross. 2014. PCBs in San Francisco Bay: Assessment of the Current State of Knowledge and Priority Information Gaps. RMP Contribution No. 727. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, California.