Update on Dioxin Results



Don Yee,

RMP TRC Meeting March 5th, 2013

Dioxin Strategy Team

- Last meeting October 2011
- Dioxin sampling since then
 - WY 2012 tributary stations
 - Bird eggs (2012)
- Deferred/cancelled
 - 2012 S&T sediment

2012 Surface Sediments Analysis

Proposed options

1) Analyze 2012 wet season samples (n=27)

- Funding approved

2) Analyze 2011 dry season samples (n=47)

- Funding needed for additional 20 samples
- 3) Analyze a subset of 2012 and 2011 samples
 - 2011 dry fixed, repeat sites (n=15) and all 2012 wet sites (n=27)
 - Funding needed for more than 27 samples (\$800/sample)
- 4) No more surface sediment analyses.
 - Cores instead?

Sediment samples

2008
Dry season sampling
n=15 samples
Fixed, repeat RMP S&T sites

2009

Dry season samplingn=47 samplesAll S&T sites

2010

Wet season samplingN=27 samplesAll S&T sites

Total Dioxins (pg/g dw)



5

Total Dioxins (pg TEQ/g dw)



Same patterns as total PCDD/Fs

Total Dioxins (ng/g dw)

Sum Dioxins and Furans in 2008-2010 Surface Sediments



7

Total Dioxins (ng/g OC)

Sum Dioxins and Furans in 2008-2010 Surface Sediments



Total Dioxins (pg TEQ/g dw)

Sum Dioxins and Furans in 2008-2010 Surface Sediments



9

Total Dioxins (pg TEQ/g dw)

Sum Dioxins and Furans in 2008-2010 Surface Sediments



Seasonal Comparison (pg/g dw)



EMAP Dioxins (pg TEQ/g dw)



EMAP 2000 vs RMP 2008-2010 (ng /g dw)



Surface sediment congener profile (pg/g)

Surface sediment congener profile (pg TEQ/g)

Surface Sediment Summary

- Concentrations highest in South Bay, Lower South Bay
- No consistent seasonal concentration differences
- Congener profiles similar Bay-wide
- Not enough 'good' data for long-term trend analysis; concentrations within range of NOAA EMAP 2000 data

 More surface sediments can provide somewhat more "representative" distribution for characterization of state, but unlikely to change short/mid-term decisions

Data at longer intervals needed for long-term trends

More Core Sediments?

PCDD/Fs in wetlands show past peaks



Concentrations in ug/kg fine sediment (<63um)

PCDD/Fs in Bay Cores

PCDD/Fs in Bay slightly elevated near surface



Concentrations in ug/kg fine sediment (<63um)

*note different scale

Core Objectives?

Evidence of sediment processes? Analytes with distinct release histories (introductions, bans) probably better History of sources Some information already from wetland cores for non-specific sources Other sources, which ones?

Other Alternatives

More Bay water samples? Currently only two years in Bay Likely driven by/mirroring surface sediment Most variation with SSC Residual differences hint at regional sediment patterns More tributary data? Margins sediment? Conceptual model – margins important sources and pathways for many contaminants

Not sampled in RMP, sparsely in other programs

Water Total Dioxins (pg/L)



Tributary Loads (preliminary)



Preliminary data and analysis

WHO98 only





WHO 98 BEFsed



WHO 98



WHO 98 BEFsed



PCB Synthesis Update



- Original target March 2012
- Work window in January & February, not March (Pulse and BOG report)
- Current target for draft is May 15

Outline

- 1. Potential for impacts on humans and aquatic life
- 2. Appropriate guidelines for protection of beneficial uses
- 3. Rates of recovery of the Bay, its segments, and in-Bay contaminated sites
- 4. Total maximum daily load (Thomas, Don)
- 5. Present loads and long-term trends in loading from each of the major pathways (Lester)
- 6. Role of in-Bay contaminated sites in segment-scale recovery rates
- 7. Small tributaries and contaminated margin sites that are the highest priorities for cleanup (Lester)
- 8. Management actions with the greatest potential for accelerating recovery or reducing exposure (Lester)
- 9. Most appropriate index for sums of PCBs



For each topic: a.New developments and information, conceptual advances b.Priority information

gaps







Fig. 4. Model-predicted (gray columns) and observed (black columns) mean biota–sediment bioaccumulation factors (BSAFs in kg dry sediment/kg wet wt organism) of total polychlorinated biphenyls (∑PCBs) in several species in San Francisco Bay, California, USA. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.



Fig. 3. Relationship between sediment and fish PCB concentrations (Σ 40 congeners). *Note*: log scale.



Rivers

Т

18

20

22

Sum of PCBs in Sediment (ppb)





Methylmercury in Sediment (ppb)




In contrast to the results obtained from water monitoring, long-term average dry season concentrations of BDE 47 in sediment have been highest in Lower South Bay (0.70 ppb). Circles and diamonds represent results from a first year of wet-season sampling in 2010. The spatial pattern observed in the wet season of 2010 was consistent with the general pattern observed in dry season monitoring from 2002-2009. Three samples with relatively high concentrations were observed in northern Suisun Bay, a region that has been consistently elevated in past sampling. The Bay-wide average for the 2010 wet season (0.43 ppb) was similar to the long-term average for the dry season (0.42 ppm) and to annual dry season averages observed in all prior years (2004-2009). The Bay-wide average has shown little fluctuation over the seven-year period, ranging from a low of 0.34 in 2005 to a high of 0.49 in 2007.

Footnote: BDF 47 is one of the most abundant PBDEs and was consistently quantified by the lab. Contour plot based on 282 RMP data points from 2004–2009. Data from 2002 are available but were inconsistent with data for the other years. The maximum concentration, by far, was 3.8 pp b in Lower South Bay in 2005. Trend plot shows annual Bay-wide averages. Colored symbols on map show results for samples collected during the wet season (February) in 2010. Circles represent random sites. Diamonds represent historic fixed stations. Concentrations presented on a dry weight basis. BDE 209 (also known as decabromodiphenyl ether) represents the one remaining class of PBDEs that can still be used in California. Similar to BDE 47 in sediment, long-term average dry season concentrations of BDE 209 from 2004–2009 were highest in Lower South Bay (4.8 ppb). Circles and diamonds represent results from a first year of wet-season sampling in 2010. The spatial pattern observed in the wet season of 2010 was consistent with the general pattern seen in dry season monitoring from 2002-2009, with the highest concentrations (including samples at 16 ppb in Lower South Bay and 8.4 ppb in San Pablo Bay) occurring in areas previously shown to have relatively high concentrations. The average for the 2010 wet season (2.2 ppb) was similar to the long-term average for the dry season (1.8 ppb) and in the middle of the range of annual dry season averages from 2004-2009.





Hypotheses



QA issue

- Influx of cleaner sediment
- Tributary inputs driven by high flow
- Spill
- Erosion of contaminated sediment
- Bottom Line: Step changes appear to be occurring

Sum of PCBs in Sediment (ppb)



















Applying Sediment Quality Objective Assessment Protocols to San Francisco Bay Samples

Using multiple lines of evidence to assess direct exposure of toxic pollutants to San Francisco Bay benthic communities

Background on SQOs

- 2003: State Board initiated a program to develop SQOs
- 2009: "Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries" adopted



WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR ENCLOSED BAYS AND ESTUARIES - PART 1 SEDIMENT QUALITY

Effective August 25, 2009

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

California Environmental Protection Agency

Multiple Lines of Evidence

- Multiple lines of evidence
 - Sediment Chemistry (2)
 - Sediment Toxicity (2)
 - Benthic Infauna Community Composition (4)
- Six categories for a station assessment
 - ✓ Unimpacted
 - Likely Unimpacted
 - Possibly Impacted
 - Likely Impacted
 - Clearly Impacted
 - ✓ Inconclusive



SQO Assessment in San Francisco Bay

- 2011 Hotspot Special Study
 - Revisited 2 of 8 former 1997 BPTCP sites
 - Sampled Mission Creek and San Leandro Creek
- Part of Annual S&T
 - Started in 2009
 - Summarizing 2011 and 2012 results



Hotspot Study Locations

Mission Creek

21302

21030

San Leandro Creek

21313 E2G

21027

Preliminary Results

Mission Creek (Site 1)

Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment		
High Exposure	High Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance Clearly Impac			
Mission Creek (mid-gradient)					
Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment		
High Exposure	High Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance	Clearly Impacted		
Mission Creek (end-gradient)					
Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment		
Moderate Exposure	Moderate Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance	Likely Impacted		

San Leandro (Site 1)						
Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment			
High Exposure	Moderate Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance	Clearly Impacted			
San Leandro (mid-gradient)						
Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment			
Moderate Exposure	Moderate Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance	Likely Impacted			
San Leandro (end-gradient)						
Chemistry	Toxicity	Benthos	Station Assessment			
Moderate Exposure	Moderate Toxicity	Moderate Disturbance	Likely Impacted			

Contaminants above the ERM

Mission Creek

✓ Mercury
 ✓ Chlordanes
 ✓ PCBs
 ✓ Lead
 ✓ Zinc
 ✓ HPAHs

San Leandro Creek

✓ Mercury✓ Chlordanes✓ DDEs

Historical Trends

- Amphipod % survival and RBI values exhibited no trend over time
- Chlordanes and Pb were the only two contaminants with a decreasing trend over time



Alpha Chlordane





Gamma Chlordane



San Leandro Creek (mid-gradient)



2011 and 2012 S&T Preliminary Results

SQOs were completed for 22 S&T Sediment sites in 2011 and 2012

Basia					
Region	Clearly Impacted	сткету ітрастей	Possibly impacted	Likely Unimpacted	Unimpacted
San Pablo Bav*		1	7	2	
		3	3	3	1
Central Bay				5	-
		_	_		
Couth Dou		9	1		
зоит вау					
Lower South Bay*		6	4		

Contamination in the Open Bay versus Creek Channels



Preliminary Conclusions

- Mission Creek and San Leandro Creek remain impacted
- The majority of the Bay is "Possibly Impacted" or "Likely Impacted" with widespread moderate toxicity



- Pollutant impact greater within creek channels than in open bay sites
- Difficulty with completing SQOs :
 - cause of moderate toxicity unknown.



Moderate Toxicity in Sediments

Presentation to TRC – March 5, 2013

Meg Sedlak

Goal of Sediment Analyses

- Answering Management Questions:
 - Q2 Concentrations and masses (spatial distribution)
 - Q4 Trends
 - **7** Q5 Forecasting/ Modeling
- Sediment S&T Monitoring:
 - Alternate years; alternate seasons (wet/dry)
 - 7 2014 − Dry (47); 2016 − Wet (27); 2018 − Dry (47) etc.
 - Chemistry, Toxicity, and Benthic Assessments

Sediment Chemistry



Ambient Sediment Concentrations

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INS FOR ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS PROJECTS **DOCUMENTS and REPORTS** CALENDAR ABOUT US HOME DATA CENTER Home :: Regional Monitoring Program :: RMP Data :: Dredged Material Testing Thresholds for San Francisco Bay Area Sediments SEARCH Dredged Material Testing Thresholds for San 9 Francisco Bay Area Sediments MORE INFO This page presents sediment chemistry thresholds for seven different contaminant classes, used by the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) for determining when bioaccumulation testing will typically be required for What is the RMP? dredged material proposed to be discharged at unconfined open water disposal sites in San Francisco Bay. These same thresholds are also used by DMMO to determine when additional analysis of the post-dredge sediment surface Teams ("residual" or "z-layer" sediments) may be warranted. The June 9, 2011, Essential Fish Habitat Agreement between USACE, USEPA, and NMFS established the approach used to determine the testing thresholds for San Francisco Bay Status & Trends Monitoring sediments Pilot & Special Studies o RMP Projects The individual chemical thresholds presented in the table below are of two types: + RMP Data 1. Thresholds for mercury, total PCBs, and total PAHs are based on San Francisco Bay ambient sediment concentrations determined via the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP), and are recalculated and updated each · Changes to the RMP year. Similar calculations are used to update TMDL in-Bay dredged material disposal limits for mercury and total Contaminant Data Display & PCBs each year. (Details on how these ambient-based thresholds are calculated are provided below.) Download 2. Thresholds for total DDTs, total chlordane, Dieldrin, and dioxins/furans are based on similar values in use in

other parts of the country and generally remain the same year-to-year.

Dredged Material Testing Thresholds Effective in Calendar Year 2013

	Mercury ^a (mg/kg dw)	Total PCBs (µg/kg dw)	Total PAHs (µg/kg dw)	Total DDTs (µg/kg dw)	Total Chlordane (µg/kg dw)	Dieldrin (µg/kg dw)	Dioxins/ Furans (pg/g dw)
Bioaccumulation Trigger	0.34	17	4,400	50	37	1.9	10
TMDL Limit	0.469	28.7					++
Basis	b	b	b	С	c	d	e

- DMMD no longer requires bioaccumulation testing for mercury above the BT. See Amendment to EFH consultation.
- b. Threshold based on San Francisco Bay ambient sediment concentrations, as describe further below.
- c. Published bioaccumulation trigger for Puget Sound marine sediments.
- d. Published marine SL value from the Pacific Northwest Sediment Evaluation Framework.
- e. Toxicity Equivalency Quotient (TEQ) based on WHO 1998 Toxicity Equivalency Factors (TEFs). Value is consistent with the published Puget Sound limit for unconfined aquatic disposal, and is ½ the established limit for placement at the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project site.

 ADRE INFO

 • What is the RMP!

 • Committees, Workgroups, and Strategy Teams

 • Plats & Trends Monitoring

 • Plats & Trends Monitoring

 • MP Projects

 • MMP Projects

 • USGS Monthly Water Quality Data

 • Ontaminant Data Display & Download

 • RMP Target Analyte List

 • Roper Analyte List

 • Roper Analyte List

 • Prodged Material Testing Thresholds for San Francisco Bay Area Sediments

 • Opper Site Specific Objective Syster Rolling Averages

 • Annual Reports and Publications

 • Annual Meetings

 • Glossary

SUMMARY OF RMP AMBIENT SEDIMENT CALCULATIONS FOR USE IN

Persistent Moderate Toxicity



Majority of Bay Possibly Impacted



• Possibly Impacted - Contamination at the site may be causing adverse impacts to aquatic life in the sediment, but the level of impact is either small or is uncertain because of disagreement among LOEs.



2012 Moderate Toxicity Workshop

Goal: To develop hypotheses to determine what is cause of moderate toxicity to amphipods in the Bay





Weak Correlation to Chemistry

Amphipod Survival vs Chemical Mixtures

Seven Sites (1993-2010) N = 168



Seasonal Element



Amphipod Survival vs % Clay (mERMq <0.11) SF RMP data 1994 - 2008 (n = 308)



Outcomes from Workshop

- Number of hypotheses:
 - Evaluate grainsize/ grain shape
 - Evaluate condition of amphipods (lipid content as a proxy)
 - Conduct statistically rigorous data mining exercise (chemicals, seasonality, particle size, year, predators, comparison to SCCWRP and interactions)
- Develop proposals for EEWG for 2014
- In interim consider putting sediment toxicity and benthic characterization on hold for 2014 to fund possible projects
 - ✤ \$50K Toxicity and \$60K Benthos



TRC update: Nutrients

- Status update: CM model
- Status update: Loading study
- Status update: Moored sensor
- Discussion: RMP oversight of Nutrient Work

David Senn and Emily Novick March 5 2013



CM Study Update

- Status:
 - Targeting early April for a draft to RMP and technical team
- Process
 - Simultaneous review by RMP and technical team
 - Final technical team meeting: early May
 - Revised version: June/July
- Structure
 - 1 page Synopsis
 - 10 page executive summary (+ figures)
 - Longer supporting document

<u>CM outline</u>

- \star Synopsis
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Background
- Problem statement
 - If SFB had nutrient problems, what would they look like?
- Conceptual Model Overview
- Hydrodynamics
- Nutrients
- Primary Production
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Phytoplankton community composition
- Future Scenarios
- Recommendations


Conceptual Model Project



Loading Study Update

- Status:
 - On-schedule for draft report end of March
- Approach:
 - "Current" loads (POTWs) 2006-2011 vs. 2012 (13267)
 - Develop best hybrid estimates
 - Missing analytes vs. small sample size
 - Seasonal variations in loads (POTWs, stormwater, Delta)
 - Loading time series: Suisun, South Bay, LSB
 - primarily POTWs and Delta



Units = kg d^{-1}

NH4 Loads to South Bay





NH₄⁺ loads to South Bay (kg d⁻¹)

EBDA + EBMUD + SFSE = ~ 75% of load





Goals of Moored Sensor Pilot Program

- Developing nutrient monitoring program's capacity for utilizing moored sensor approaches
 - Field maintenance
 - Calibration frequency
 - Data communication, QA/QC and visualization
- Inform future years of sensor program
 - Ideal spatial distribution of sensors
 - Which parameters are most critical and most feasible to measure
- Preliminary scientific investigation
 - nutrient and DO budgets
 - bloom time and spatial scales

Pilot Program Equipment

- Originally, SFEI had planned to purchase a single, more expensive unit
 - pH, DO, CTD, chl-a, CDOM, turbidity, NO3
- However, meetings with local experts have encouraged exploring other options

Existing moored sensor stations



DO Salinity Turbidity pH Temp Depth



DO Salinity Turbidity pH Temp Depth Chl-a DO Salinity Turbidity pH Temp Depth Chl-a NO3, PO4, DOC

Rio Vista

USGS (Pellerin group)

Sacramento

Lodi o

Pilot Program Equipment

- SFEI plans to purchase:
 - 2 YSI EXO-2 sondes (pH, CTD, DO, CDOM, turbidity, chl-a, blue-green)
 - 1 SUNA-2 NO3 sensor
 - Campbell scientific datalogger to merge and communicate datastreams
- Rationale:
 - Purchasing duplicate sondes will reduce down-time in first year
 - Duplicate sondes will periodically be deployed simultaneously (inform spatial distribution, and next steps)
 - Less expensive: Some money remains for sensor maintenance in first year, purchasing additional sensors or applying towards future years
 - Investing in similar technology that is already deployed elsewhere in the Bay expands partnership possibilities (maintenance, data comparisons, data management/visualization tools)
 - External datalogger promote greater flexibility in adding additional sensors in the future

Criteria for Selection

Equipment	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
YSI EXO-2 + sensors -pH, conductivity/temp, optical DO, turbidity, total algae, FDOM	\$15525	2	\$31050
SUNA-2 NO3 sensor	\$22800	1	\$22800
Campbell Scientific external datalogger	\$1465	1	\$1465
Cables, battery pack	\$800	1	\$800
USGS labor for wiring datalogger, setting up communication/visualization (estimation)	\$5000		\$5000
TOTAL			\$61115

Remaining questions

- How to communicate/visualize the data?
 - USGS-Sac has experience wiring this configuration into datalogger, communicating and visualizing data
- Field maintenance/calibration check procedures for Chl and NO3 sensors
 - Will likely use NO3 standard and chl grab samples

- Reliability of in-situ chl measurements how to account for interference of turbidity, FDOM
 - USGS-Sac planning study

RMP Nutrient Oversight

• What will be the RMP's role in on-going nutrient work?

- Should we form an RMP Nutrient Workgroup?
 - What is its role relative to the NNE SAG, and other bodies?
 - Monitoring program
 - Modeling
 - Input on current/future reports



