



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** John Stufflebean

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 2-8-06

Approved

*Kay Winer*

Date

*2/3/06*

**SUBJECT: CLEAN BAY STRATEGY REPORT**

## RECOMMENDATION

Approve the annual report on San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant) watershed protection activities, including update of the South Bay Action Plan, Contingency Plan, and Annual Pollution Prevention Report, as required by the Plant's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

## BACKGROUND

As the administering agency of the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, the City operates the Plant under a complex set of regulatory requirements and issues. The Plant treats wastewater from a 300 square mile service area serving 1.3 million residents and 16,000 businesses, including many of the leading computer and electronics manufacturing companies that make up "Silicon Valley."

The current Plant permit, Order No. R2 2003-0085, requires that annual reports on the Plant's watershed protection activities be submitted to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) in February of each year. The report utilizes a format that includes separate stand-alone sections for two distinct programs, the South Bay Action Plan and the Pollution Prevention Plan.

## REPORT IN BRIEF

The City's integrated watershed protection approach to water quality, called the Clean Bay Strategy, considers all factors influencing water quality in the South Bay and seeks to address environmental problems in the most cost-effective manner. The Plant was recently awarded the 2005 Plant of the Year award by the local chapter of the California Water Environment Association. This award is in recognition of excellence in operating and maintaining the

wastewater treatment facility, as well as, excellence in implementing the associated watershed programs.

The attached 2005 Clean Bay Strategy Report includes the following reports:

**The South Bay Action Plan** is a summary of the activities and achievements in reducing flow to the South Bay for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, unless otherwise noted. During the 2005 dry weather season (May-October), the Plant discharged an average of 100 million gallons per day (mgd) – well below the 120 mgd flow trigger for the eighth consecutive year. The drop in effluent (14% between 2000 and 2005) has been due primarily to a combination of water conservation and water recycling, as well as the economic slowdown. The flow trend now, however, has leveled off and reversed direction slightly. It is anticipated to rise at a rate of 1 percent or less per year for the foreseeable future.

South Bay Water Recycling Program expansion projects under construction include a 5.5 million gallon storage facility in the Evergreen area, the Recycled Water Interchange in San Jose and Santa Clara, and the Guadalupe Community Gardens extension in San Jose. Recently completed projects include a 7-mile pipeline extension to south San Jose designed to serve Metcalf Energy Center in San Jose's Coyote Valley, and capable of delivering 1.9 billion gallons (5,800 acre-feet) annually for multi-family residential land uses, commercial buildings, dual plumbing, industrial uses and office parks proposed for construction in the area. In 2005, an average of 12.6 million gallons (38.7 acre-feet) of recycled water were diverted daily during the summer.

The City continues to actively participate in regional planning and management efforts such as the South Bay Salt Pond restoration effort, the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative, Bay Area Stormwater Management Association (BASMA), California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), Clean Estuary Partnership (CEP), Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), Tri TAC and the San Francisco Estuary Regional Monitoring Program (RMP).

In addition, the South Bay Action Plan report includes a description of those activities that are ongoing or planned for 2006 and a contingency plan should discharge flows begin to rise more rapidly than expected.

**The Annual Pollution Prevention Report** is a summary of activities in place to minimize the Plant's contribution of priority pollutants to the South Bay. These activities include targeted source control measures as well as other local and regional outreach efforts. The Plant has maintained compliance with all its discharge limits in 2005. In addition, pollution prevention activities relating to copper, nickel, mercury, cyanide, pesticides, fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) are described in the Annual Pollution Prevention (P2) Report. The Annual P2 Report was reformatted and resubmitted to the Regional Water Board in August 2005 at their request. Report changes provide more details of historic pollution prevention activities, current activities and effectiveness measures. The Annual P2 Report also includes special studies, such as the Mercury Fate and Transport Study at the Plant. Phase I of the study was completed and the Phase II sampling plan developed based on the results. Initial results appear to confirm earlier

preliminary studies that the Plant removes in excess of 95% of total and methyl mercury. Once completed, the mercury fate and transport study will provide valuable information on the fate of mercury through the Plant's treatment process.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The reporting elements for the Clean Bay Strategy were agreed to as part of the permit re-issuance stakeholder process, which included representatives from state and federal regulatory agencies, municipalities, and environmental and business interests. The final report will be distributed to the Watershed Management Initiative, the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee, and their various agencies, as well as posted on the City of San Jose's Environmental Services website at [http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/pub\\_res.htm](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/pub_res.htm).

### **COORDINATION**

This item has been coordinated with the City Attorney and is scheduled to be heard at the February 9, 2006 meeting of the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee. The report will be submitted to the Water Board by the deadline of February 28, 2006.

### **COST IMPLICATION**

No additional cost implications beyond currently budgeted programs. This report is consistent with the Mayor's 2004-2005 Budget Strategy to focus on the protection of our vital core City services such as the Plant and its regulatory compliance.

### **BUDGET REFERENCE**

Not applicable.

### **CEQA**

Not a project.

  
JOHN STUFFLEBEAN  
Director, Environmental Services

Attachment: Clean Bay Strategy Report

