

Committee Request for Board Action: None

Regular meeting: 33 attendees via Zoom representing 24 agencies and the Regional Water Board

Best Practices for Infrared Temperature Measuring Devices

Diane Lawver (QA Solutions) presented on the regulatory requirements related to infrared temperature monitoring devices, also known as “IR Guns.” A recording is available from BACWA. She has also prepared a white paper based on references including 40 CFR Part 136, 40 CFR Part 141, the TNI 2016 Standard, and the Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water; she intends to share the white paper with the committee. A few of the concepts covered in the training session include:

- IR Guns cannot be calibrated, but they can be checked against certified thermometers, and then a correction factor can be developed if needed. The correction factor cannot be more than 1 degree.
- Diane discussed several best practices for using the IR Guns. For example, to get an accurate correction factor, it is best practice to check the IR Gun at the expected temperature of use.

California ELAP and Third-Party Assessment Findings

Diane Lawver (QA Solutions) also presented on findings from fifty Onsite Assessment Reports (OSAR's) prepared by California ELAP and approved third-party assessors. A recording is available from BACWA. She obtained the OSARs from a public records request and from volunteer agencies, and analyzed 761 individual findings to look for trends. Some of the trends she noted in her presentation were:

- On average, reports from CA ELAP had three times as many individual findings as reports from third-party assessors, reflecting CA ELAP's capacity to be more thorough.
- More than half of all individual findings are related to Section 64802.05 (QA), indicating a problem with omitting required topics from the QA Manual, or not following the QA Manual as written.
- Findings from Chemistry QA/QC and Chemistry Methods were more common than microbiology issues. BOD and TSS were the most commonly source of findings, because many labs run these methods.

BACWA Updates:

- The Regional Water Board is now including language implementing the Statewide Toxicity Provisions within NPDES Permits; it will become effective after EPA approval. The newest example ([Rodeo SD Tentative Order](#)) is for a deep water discharger and therefore includes surveillance monitoring.
- The [Tentative Order of the Mercury/PCB watershed permit](#) is now available for review and proposes reduced monitoring frequencies for PCB congeners. Provide comments to Mary Cousins by Oct 28.
- Nutrient Data for the Group Annual Report are due to HDR by November 23rd. [Link to Excel template](#).
- Data from Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study will be available in early 2023. Meanwhile, EPA is proposing to designate PFAS analytes as Hazardous Substances under CERCLA.

ELAP Updates

- [New ELAP Field of Accreditation Tables](#) were announced 9/28. No new analytical methods or analytes have been added to any FOA tables. Changes do not affect current accreditation.
- ELAP is no longer providing a courtesy Failure to Comply Notice for Proficiency Testing errors or for filling out ELAP FOA tables incorrectly. An error in your application or PT deficiencies that cause denial of accreditation will now require an amendment application to remedy.

TNI Training and Implementation

- The 16th TNI training session with Diane Lawver is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18th. Recordings of previous sessions are available through the [BACWA website](#) (password required).

Remembrance of Farid Ramezanzadeh

Members shared memories of their former Lab Committee colleague, who was part of the Bay Area wastewater laboratory community for 20 years.

Next Regular Meeting : December 13, 2022, Format and Time for Holiday Party TBD