

San Mateo County Harbor District
Water Quality and Public Safety Committee Meeting Report

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015

Time: Start 7 pm, End 8:55 pm

Commissioner Co-Chairs: Tom Mattusch, Nicole David

The meeting was attended by:

San Mateo County Harbor District Acting Harbor Master, Resources Conservation District (RCD), Surfrider Foundation, Pillar Point Harbor liveaboard, local residents with experience in water quality research, wastewater treatment, and bacteria beach monitoring

Brown Act rules for committee members were reviewed. The question was raised whether the Brown Act applies to members of the public who attend the meeting and whether they can share committee discussions and decisions with others outside of the committee meetings. After consulting with our District counsel it was confirmed that the Brown Act is not intended to limit the constitutional rights of the public to speak freely, including the right to contact their government representatives regarding issues which concern them. Therefore, the Brown Act does not define as a meeting discussions between members of the public, or discussions between a member of the public and a member of the Board.

The Committee agreed to meet on the second Thursday of the month, with an alternating focus on water quality and public safety.

The Committee agreed on the following mission statement for water quality:

Assist San Mateo County Harbor District with enhancing the quality of Harbor waters to keep them safe for recreation, swimming, fishing, and other beneficial uses, balanced against the needs and uses of a working marina.

Committee Goals

- Meet safe water quality standards
- Understand potential causes of water quality concerns
- Seek collaborative efforts with other local agencies to reduce occurrences of beach postings and other water quality concerns

Ongoing Monitoring Efforts

Brittani Bohlke (RCD) gave a quick overview of current RCD monitoring efforts in Pillar Point Harbor.

Inner Harbor: Fecal indicator bacteria monitoring once per month at eight locations, plus one five week period of weekly sampling in January at same locations and one five week period of weekly sampling during the dry season.

Harbor Outfalls: Twelve outfalls total for first flush sampling. Four outfalls that flow year-round are sampled during two wet weather and two dry weather events for fecal indicator bacteria, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, chloride and fluoride.

The RCD partners with Surfrider on the bacteria monitoring. Surfrider volunteers have also been conducting frequent monitoring of Capistrano and other Harbor beaches.

The RCD will provide a summary of the water quality monitoring data at the next meeting on March 12.

Discussion of potential for continued monitoring through RCD. Possible help through Committee and the compilation of existing information, data, and supportive data to investigate correlations and clues for source identification. Additionally, site reconnaissance for microbial source identification, using the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project manual, will be conducted

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/cbi_projects/docs/sipp_manual.pdf

and EPA Marine Beach Sanitary Survey forms, available on EPA website

<http://www2.epa.gov/beach-tech/marine-beach-sanitary-survey>

Three beaches were identified as priority beaches based on popularity and water quality problems. These beaches are Capistrano, West Point, and the beach outside of Sam's Chowder House. These beaches are identified by San Mateo County Department of Public Health as Pillar Point # 5, #7, and #9, respectively. All three beaches are currently posted as impaired based on the February 9, 2015 sample collection.

Capistrano: *Enterococci* 373 MPN (most probable number for colony forming bacteria per 100 mL of water)

West Point: *Enterococci* 638 MPN

Pillar Point #9: *Enterococci* 414 MPN, *E. coli* 495 MPN

Beaches are posted when single sample exceeds 400 *E. coli* or 104 *Enterococci* or when 5-week geometric mean exceeds 200 *E. coli* or 35 *Enterococci*.

Potential microbial source tracking with newer technologies (digital polymerase chain reaction) could complement source identification work but at a high cost. Potential for low sample number was discussed to confirm analysis and interpretation of existing data.

Announcements

Commissioner Mattusch announced the completion of the new Environmental Procurement Policy and the Dumping into Navigable Waters Policy, which were both compiled by Acting Harbor Master John Draper. The two new policies will be on a future agenda for adoption by the Board.

The Committee agreed on the following mission statement for public safety:

Assist Harbor District with enhancing the working experience and safety of fishermen and harbor workers, maintaining order, and safeguarding the public.

Goals

- Reduce and avoid accidents/injuries for workers and public
- Implement best preventive measures possible

Public safety issues discussed included

- Electrical wiring at Johnson Pier (no breaker for fuel dock and fishbuyer building), PG&E has to shut off power for Pier
- Romeo Pier condition
- New licensing requirements for boaters
- Safety inspections for boats, available through Coastguard Auxiliary
- Risk for pedestrians on Johnson Pier

Possible solutions discussed included

- Kiosk at Johnson Pier providing information on new licensing requirements for boaters, information on boat safety and boating classes, and possible inclusion of pedestrian safety information on Pier
- Potential warning signs on Pier alerting pedestrians to working harbor risks
- Potential volunteers at Johnson Pier for busy weekends (Fri- Sun), handing out information and directing traffic

The next Water Quality and Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at the RCD in Half Moon Bay. This meeting will focus on water quality only!

The following Water Quality and Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the RCD in Half Moon Bay. This meeting will focus on public safety only!