



# d.1. Discharge Regulations & Potential Impacts to the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility

*Transportation and Environment Committee*

June 5, 2023

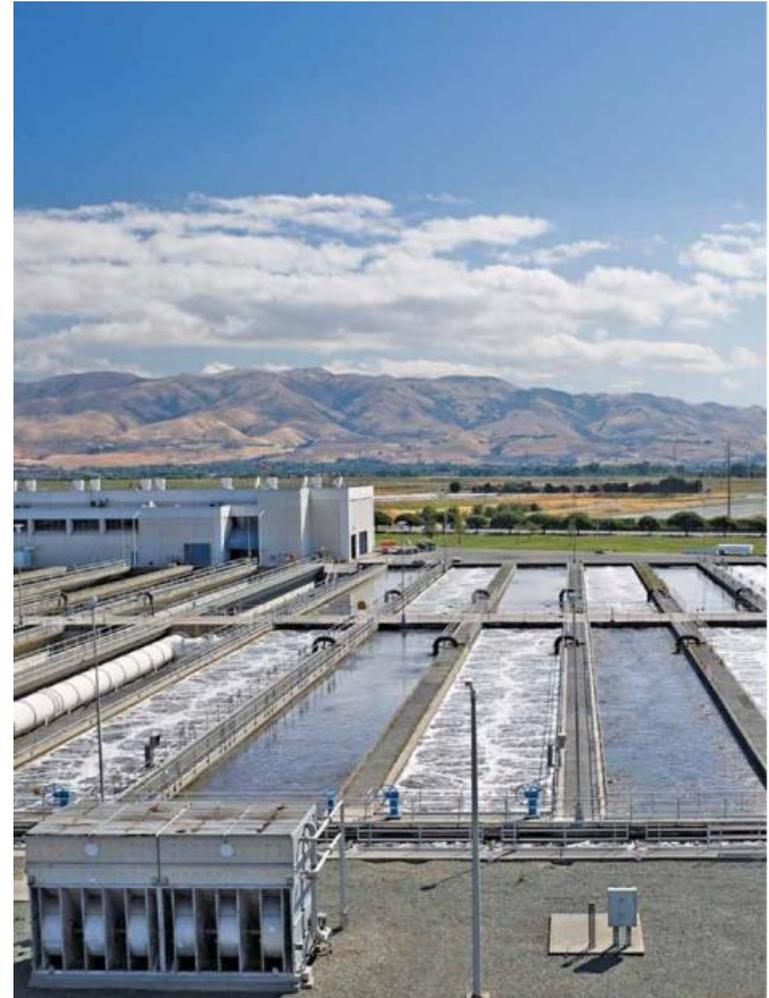
*Eric Dunlavey  
Jason Nettleton  
Jennifer Voccola Brown*



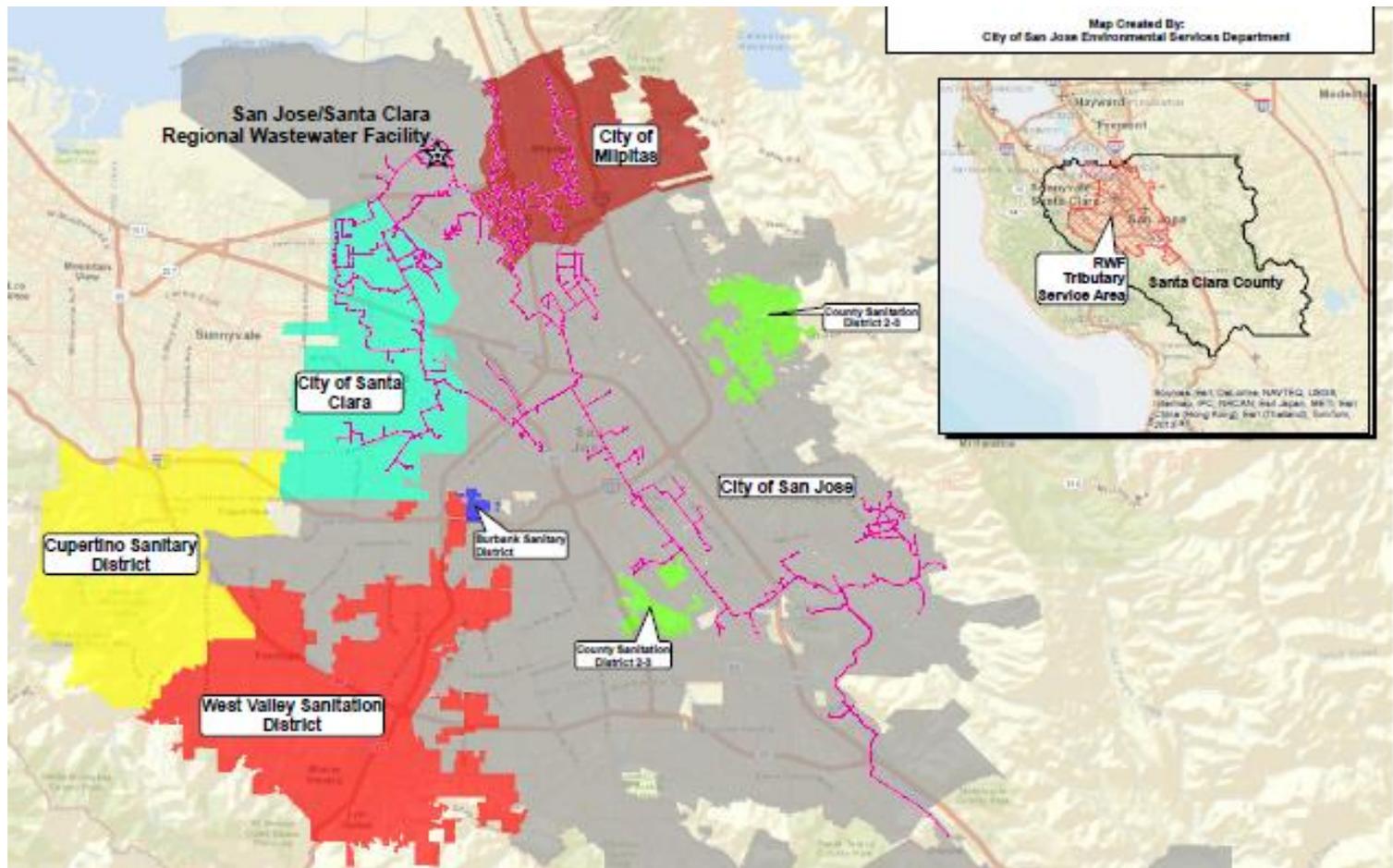
San José-  
Santa Clara  
Regional  
Wastewater  
Facility

# Regional Wastewater Facility

- Operating since 1956
- Largest advanced wastewater facility in West
  - *167 MGD capacity*
  - *2,600-acre site*
- Serves
  - *1.5 million people*
  - *17,000 businesses*
  - *8 cities & County*
- Subject to multiple regulatory permits



# Regional Wastewater Facility



Protecting our Health, Bay, and Economy

# Regulatory Permits: Water & Air Quality

Permit	Permit Effective	Expected Reissuance	Regulator
<b>Air Emissions Permits</b>			
Title V – Federal Air Operating Permit	May 2022	May 2027	EPA/BAAQMD
Permit to Operate	July 2022	Renewed Annually	BAAQMD
<b>Wastewater Discharge Permits</b>			
RWF NPDES Permit	April 2020	April 2025	SF Water Board
Nutrients NPDES Permit for POTWs	July 2019	July 2024	SF Water Board
Mercury and PCBs NPDES Permit for POTWs	December 2022	December 2027	SF Water Board

# Updated Regulations: Nutrient Limits

- Algae bloom in August 2022 was a game changer
- Nitrogen limits in 2024
- Proactive monitoring and collaborative engagement by staff

## San Francisco Chronicle

Poop and pee fueled the huge algae bloom in San Francisco Bay. Fixing the problem could cost \$14 billion



BACWA  
(wastewater utilities)



Regional Water Board  
(regulatory)



San Francisco Estuarine Institute  
(science)



Non-Govt Organizations  
(NGOs)



# Potential Regulations: CECs



## Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Proactive outreach



## PFAS

Forever chemicals

Broad uses

Ubiquitous

Image from:  
mn-net.com



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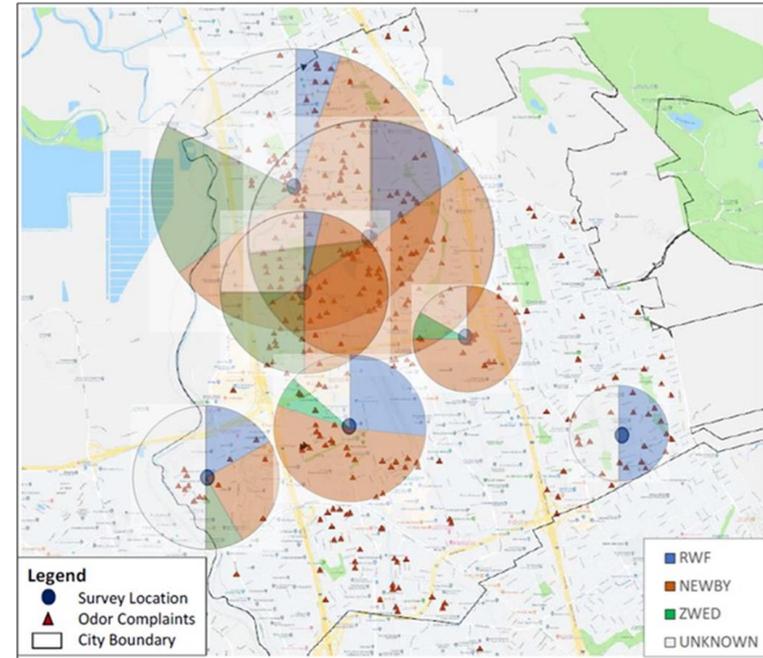
# New/Updated BAAQMD Regulations

- Regulation 2, Rule 5 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants
- Regulation 11, Rule 18 – Reduction of Risk From Air Toxic Emissions at Existing Facilities
- Regulation 13, Rule 4 – Sewage Treatment and Anaerobic Digestion



# South Bay Odor Study

- Study Conducted in 2020/21 on ZWED, Newby Island Landfill, and RWF
- Draft Report Issued in 2022
- BAAQMD Plans to Draft New Rule



# Conclusions

- **Issues can change quickly**, so it's important to
  - Continue robust monitoring programs and participate in studies
  - Be agile with projects
- **Engaging with Regulators is crucial**
  - Establish stronger connection with BAAQMD Leadership
  - Maintain relationship with Water Board
- **Staying Proactive**
  - Supports compliance status
  - Benefits the environment