

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Heather Ottaway)
MEETING DATE: September 10, 2008

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: **2008 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award** – Presentation of Award in Recognition of Exceptional Accomplishments in Pollution Prevention in the San Francisco Bay Area

CHRONOLOGY: The Board established this annual award in 2007.

DISCUSSION: This item will present the 2008 Dr. Teng-chung Wu Pollution Prevention Award to the City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission for its innovative biofuel program. The Board established this award to honor the legacy of Dr. Teng-chung Wu who worked at the Board and was an advocate of pollution prevention for decades. The award recognizes innovation, excellence, and collaboration in pollution prevention.

The City's program, called "SFGreasecycle," is the first comprehensive biofuel program in the United States incorporating a complete "closed loop." Through a multi-media and multi-lingual outreach, the City has collected over 60,000 gallons of waste cooking oil from restaurants, hotels, churches, high schools, and museums, and more than 2,500 gallons from residents since the program began in November 2007. All the oil collected has been converted to biofuel and used to fuel the City's buses, fire trucks, and other municipal vehicles.

Waste fats, oils, and grease are a major source of blockages and backups in sanitary sewage collection systems, resulting in sewage overflows, which put the environment and public health at risk. Historically, waste oil ended up in sewers or was exported out of the City through trash and grease haulers. Since implementing SFGreasecycle, the City has already seen a significant reduction in grease-related sewer service calls.

In addition to environmental benefits, the City reports that through SFGreasecycle, its employees and residents no longer consider grease as waste, but as fuel for the City's entire diesel vehicle fleet.

Other nominations to the "WuHoo Award" meriting mention include the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's excellent program to collect mercury before discharge and its joint billboard outreach efforts with the Mt. View Sanitary District in Martinez on proper disposal of household hazardous wastes and pharmaceuticals.

RECOMMENDATION: No action is necessary