

## **Excerpts from State Water Resources Control Board and San Francisco Bay Water Board documents on exposure reduction requirements**

### **State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 2005-0060**

“Directs the San Francisco Bay and Central Valley Water Boards to investigate ways, consistent with their regulatory authority, to address public health impacts of mercury in San Francisco Bay/Delta fish, including activities that reduce actual and potential exposure of and mitigate health impacts to those people and communities most likely to be affected by mercury in San Francisco Bay-Delta caught fish, such as subsistence fishers and their families.” (Resolved Item #10)

### **San Francisco Bay Water Board Basin Plan amendment for the San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL (adopted by Resolution R2-2006-0052)**

#### Requirements for Urban Runoff-

“The NPDES permits for urban runoff management agencies shall require the implementation of best management practices and control measures designed to achieve the allocations or accomplish the load reductions derived from the allocations. In addition to controlling mercury loads, best management practices or control measures shall include actions to reduce mercury-related risks to humans and wildlife.”

#### Requirements for Municipal wastewater-

“Develop and implement effective programs to reduce mercury-related risks to humans and wildlife and quantify risk reductions resulting from these activities.”

#### Requirements for Industrial wastewater-

“Develop and implement effective programs to reduce mercury-related risks to humans and wildlife and quantify the risk reductions resulting from these activities.”

#### Implementation for Risk Management-

“The mercury problem in San Francisco Bay may take decades to solve. However, there are activities that should be undertaken immediately to help manage the risk to consumers of mercury-contaminated fish. In this effort, the Water Board will work with the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the California Department of Health Services, and dischargers that pursue risk management as part of their mercury-related programs. The risk management activities will include the following:

- Providing multilingual fish-consumption advice to the public to help reduce methylmercury exposure through community outreach, broadcast and print media, and signs posted at popular fishing locations;

- Regularly informing the public about monitoring data and findings regarding hazards of eating mercury-contaminated fish; and
- Performing special studies needed to support health risk assessment and risk communication.
- Investigate ways to address public health impacts of mercury in San Francisco
- Bay/Delta fish, including activities that reduce actual and potential exposure of and mitigate health impacts to those people and communities most likely to be affected by mercury in San Francisco Bay caught fish, such as subsistence fishers and their families.”

**San Francisco Bay Water Board Watershed Permit (Order No. R2-2007-0077)  
Waste Discharge Requirements for municipal and industrial wastewater  
discharges of mercury to San Francisco Bay**

(Note: this watershed permit applies to 39 municipalities and 17 industrial facilities)

**Risk Reduction Programs**

The Dischargers shall develop and implement or participate in effective programs to reduce mercury-related risks to humans and quantify the resulting risk reductions from these activities. The activities may be performed by a third party if the Dischargers wish to provide funding for this purpose. This requirement may be satisfied by a combination of related efforts through the Regional Monitoring Program or other similar collaborative efforts.

The risk reduction activities shall include investigating ways to address public health impacts of mercury in San Francisco Bay/Delta fish, including activities that reduce actual and potential exposure of health impacts to those people and communities most likely to be affected by mercury in San Francisco Bay-caught fish, such as subsistence fishers and their families. Such strategies should include public participation in developing effective programs in order to ensure their effectiveness. The Dischargers may include studies needed to establish effective exposure reduction activities and risk communication messages as part of their planning.

Within 1 year of the effective date of this Order, the Dischargers shall submit, or cause to be submitted, a progress report describing their efforts in developing risk management and reduction programs, with community participation and input.

Within 2 years of the effective date of this Order, the Dischargers shall submit, or cause to be submitted, a report describing the details of their risk management and reduction programs, the community participation process that was involved in developing such programs, any third parties involved in implementing the programs, and a plan for evaluating the programs' effectiveness. The report shall include an implementation schedule with implementation beginning within 3 years of the effective date of this Order. The Dischargers shall describe the progress of their efforts in the Annual Self-

Monitoring Report required by IV.B.2.b. (or IV.C, Optional Group Compliance Reporting) in Attachment E of this Order.

**San Francisco Bay Water Board  
Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit  
Order R2-2009-0074**

**C.11.i. Development of a Risk Reduction Program Implemented Throughout the Region.**

**i. Task Description** – The Permittees shall develop and implement or participate in effective programs to reduce mercury-related risks to humans and quantify the resulting risk reductions from these activities.

**ii. Implementation Level** – The risk reduction activities shall include investigating ways to address public health impacts of mercury in San Francisco Bay/Delta fish, including activities that reduce actual and potential exposure of health impacts to those people and communities most likely to be affected by mercury in San Francisco Bay-caught fish, such as subsistence fishers and their families. Such strategies should include public participation in developing effective programs in order to ensure their effectiveness. The Permittees may include studies needed to establish effective exposure reduction activities and risk communication messages as part of their planning. The risk reduction activities may be performed by a third party if the Permittees wish to provide funding for this purpose. This requirement may be satisfied by a combination of related efforts through the Regional Monitoring Program or other similar collaborative efforts.

**iii. Reporting** – The Permittees shall submit in their 2010 Annual Report the specific manner in which these risk reduction activities will be accomplished and describe the studies to be performed with a schedule. The Permittees shall report on the status of the risk reduction efforts in their 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports. The Permittees shall report the findings and results of the studies completed, planned, or in progress as well as the status of other risk reduction actions in their March 15, 2014 Integrated Monitoring Report.