

Daily Log for January 13 – January 14 2010 for Dylan Seidner
All times approximate

0610 – I left my residence in the State van and arrived at the 65th and Folsom parking lot before 0630. Chris Haynes and Greg Gearheart arrived shortly thereafter. We loaded equipment in the van and left before 0645.

0830 – We arrived in San Leandro and decided to drive by the MetroPoly facility on Aurora Drive in San Leandro to determine if anything could be observed from the street. There was a crew of about 3 men removing asphalt in the front parking lot of the facility, and no other outdoor operations were visible in front parking lot. We also drove by the rail siding where hopper cars were parked next to the facility along with orange bins and plywood pieces. We then continued to Neptune Dr. to observe the northern stormwater outfall that exited into the finger of Oyster Bay wetlands that follows Neptune Dr. We determined that this area would be sampled due to the large mounts of plastic pellets visible from our quick observations.

0900 – We drove back to meet up with Department of Fish and Game representatives Kyle Hiatt and Biologist Janna Rinderneck in the Costco parking lot on Davis St., San Leandro. Region 2 Water Board staff, consisting of Christine Boschen, Cecil Felix, Michelle Rembaum-Fox, and Danny Pham arrived shortly thereafter. We decided that Water Boards staff would sample and assess the debris at the Oyster Bay outfall area while DFG staff would investigate Metro Poly Corporation.

0920 – Water Boards staff arrived at the Oyster Bay outfall on Neptune Dr. and I briefed staff regarding the field sampling plan so that methods could remain consistent between team members in the field. As our sampling location, we picked a 100ft length of wetland that surrounded the outfall. We named this area ESTN as a short form for estuary, north.

I laid out the measuring tape while Greg flagged it at 10ft intervals. Two teams were devised. Greg and Michelle were paired for one team and Christine and Cecil for the other. Christine and Michelle acted as collectors of debris while Greg and Cecil recorded information and helped measure the accessible length of the sub-transects. Danny was designated to take pictures of the debris and sampling. Chris departed from the group to further investigate other potential spills of pellets along the rail line adjacent and north of Neptune and the wetland area. I acted as coordinator for procedure questions and field supplies and took possession of sample containers when sealed. I also completed the transect data sheet for the area and double checked that labels and information were completed.

Most of the instructions for the sampling plan were followed, but field conditions necessitated some changes. They consisted of the following:

-GPS points for the beginning and end of sub-transects were deemed irrelevant considering that GPS unit error could account for approximately 30ft of error.

-A field counts for pellets was deemed too time consuming while working on the first sub-transect and was therefore dropped from the protocol. If exact pellet counts were necessary we could later parse out pellets in a lab setting.

-A 15 minute time limit for collecting pellets was imposed for each sub-transect. This was necessary due to the overwhelming amount of debris in the area, and a full collection on a single sub-transect would have imposed hours of work.

Greg and Michelle worked from the north end of the wetland toward the center while Christine and Cecil worked from the south with both teams completing 4 sub-transects each. Two sub-transects were filled with water and deemed inaccessible.

In total, 8 bags of pellet samples were collected from the area. Chris also collected 2 sample bags. Data sheets for the area consist of the following:

- 1 Transect Data Sheet
- 1 Chain of Custody
- 2 Field Maps (includes Chris's notes)
- 8 Trash Tally Sheets
- 2 Conditional Assessments (each team complete one assessment)

I sealed all bags with tape and boxed them prior to leaving the site, and all samples were locked in the State van. By **1116** sampling was complete. We decided to meet Region 2 staff for lunch at an area near the Davis off ramp. Region 2 staff departed, and Chris, Greg, and I drove by Metro Poly while DFG was still investigating. Another truck from the City of San Leandro was also at Metro Poly. Greg spoke with Warden Hiatt briefly while we were parked outside the facility and we then continued on to lunch at **1130**.

1245 –We broke from lunch and Water Board staff headed to another outfall in the Oyster Bay wetlands further south of our first sampling. We labeled the area ESTS.

The group decided that time restrictions (to meet-up with DFG) meant using the complete sampling protocol would not work. Instead, we measured an 100ft length along the shoreline and split into two areas, one north of the outfall (labeled north bank) and one south (south bank).

The group split into two teams. Cecil, Danny, Chris and I took the north bank and the Greg, Christine and Michelle took the south. Each team had one bag for collections so that all team members pooled found pellets into a bag for the area. We collected from **1314-1332**. Team members walked the length of this area and collected pellets as they were found. Teams walked the width of the area as far as was safely accessible before approaching water. The south team continued 25-50ft south of the defined length to collect pellets from concentrated piles that along the bank edge.

During this time period Greg received a phone call from DFG informing him that they were at a nearby plastics facility that was also operated by Metro Poly. Greg decided that we should join DFG and inspect the facility.

In total, 2 bags of pellet samples were collected for this location. Paperwork consisted of the following:

- 1 Transect Data Sheet

- 1 Site Map
- 1 Trash Tally Sheet (for north bank)

Conditional assessments were not conducted since this was a less formal assessment of the area that the previous site.

1340 – We arrived at the facility, located on 2020 Williams St in San Leandro to meet Janna from DFG. Laura Drabandt from SWRCB arrived within a few minutes. The owners came out of the building and spoke with Christine, and she received consent to perform an inspection. Since we had a large group, I opted to stay in the parking lot of the facility along with Laura and Danny so that I could seal and box the previous samples and organize paperwork from earlier.

During the inspection 3 bags of samples were taken. Two bags consisted of raw materials from the facility. One bag consisted of pellets that were found spilled near a rail loading area. I collected all the samples and placed them into a box in the State van.

1500 – Water Boards staff left the 2020 Williams St facility to the former site of Kaneka. The team set out to collect samples of the Kaneka-specific pellets which are similar in size and feel to expanded foam plastic pellets, and colored white or black. Chris, Greg and Michelle collected pellet samples in the parking lot for approximately 30 minutes. Pellets were present in the loading dock areas, at the fenced borders of the facility, and near the rail line bordering the facility. Greg, Chris, Danny, and I lifted one of the storm drain grates in the parking lot and observed pellets attached to the inside of the storm drain.

By **1600**, the Water Boards staff met with DFG staff at a restaurant near the Davis exit to discuss observations from the day and next steps. It was decided that DFG would store samples for Water Boards at their lab facility in Rancho Cordova. Janna from DFG agreed to meet me at the DFG labs the next day (01/14/2010) to take secured custody of the samples and keep them in cold storage. At this time, Warden Hiatt provided me with a portion of a raw material sample from his MetroPoly inspection earlier that day. This was added to the box of samples from the entire day and locked into the State van. Chris Greg and I departed San Leandro between **1640 and 1700**.

I arrived at my residence in Sacramento prior to **1900**, at which point I unloaded field gear and cleaned out the vehicle. Samples from the day were locked in the vehicle overnight.

1/14/2009

0700 – I left my residence to travel to a storm water inspection in Roseville arriving around **0730**. Samples were still locked in the State van. At approximately 0850 I left Roseville and headed back to my residence. While there I organized the paperwork and

samples from the previous day and re-packed all the field gear to return it to the EPA building.

1030 – I spoke with Janna at DFG and she agreed to meet after lunch at the DFG labs in Rancho Cordova.

1320 – I arrived at the DFG Water Pollution Control Lab in Rancho Cordova and met with Janna and Kathleen Regalado, DFG lab staff. I unlocked the State van, removed the samples and we proceeded to check the samples in using the procedures at the lab. I completed DFG chain of custody form that listed the 19 samples and noted my relinquishment. Kathleen also signed the received portion of the Water Boards chain of custody, and I again noted relinquishment. All the samples were contained in a single box and logged with a lab number. We then proceeded to the walk-in refrigerator on the premises and placed the box inside. The walk-in was secured with a locked door. Janna then gave me a short tour of the lab facilities, and we talked to the staff about potential testing procedures or counter space for the plastics samples. I then left the facilities and returned to the EPA Building to drop off field equipment, and then the State Garage to drop off the State van. I arrived back at the EPA building at approximately **1500**.