The background of the slide is a photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with a person sitting on a bench. A paved walkway runs along the water's edge. In the middle ground, a large fountain with multiple jets of water is active. The background features several tall, modern buildings under a clear blue sky.

SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Water Quality Impacts Related To People Experiencing Homelessness

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Overview

- Bay Area unsheltered homelessness
- Water Board role
- What are municipalities doing?
- Caltrans: trash control

Bay Area Unsheltered Homelessness

- Sheltered vs. unsheltered homelessness
 - Water quality challenge
- Rising trend
 - Pop. about 35,000 Bay Area-wide (2019)
 - 20 to 45 percent increases in overall homeless population in South, West, and East Bay
 - Unsheltered proportion growing faster
 - Exacerbated by COVID-19
 - Need exceeds available resources

Water Quality Impacts

- Human waste
 - Bacteria
 - Pathogens
- Trash
- Riparian and creek bank impacts



Local Agency Interests

- Support residents
- Clean creeks and Bay
- Flood management
- NPDES municipal stormwater permit compliance
- Clean Water Act citizen suit provision
 - Baykeeper San Jose settlement: \$100 million
 - Baykeeper lawsuit against Sunnyvale and Mountain View for bacteria

Water Board Role

- Focus on water quality impacts
- Regulate discharges of waste from encampments
- Support municipal actions
- Cover under broader permits
 - NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permits
 - Permits for work in creeks and wetlands



Water Board Resolution R2-2015-0024
“Actions to address the adverse water quality
impacts of homeless encampments”

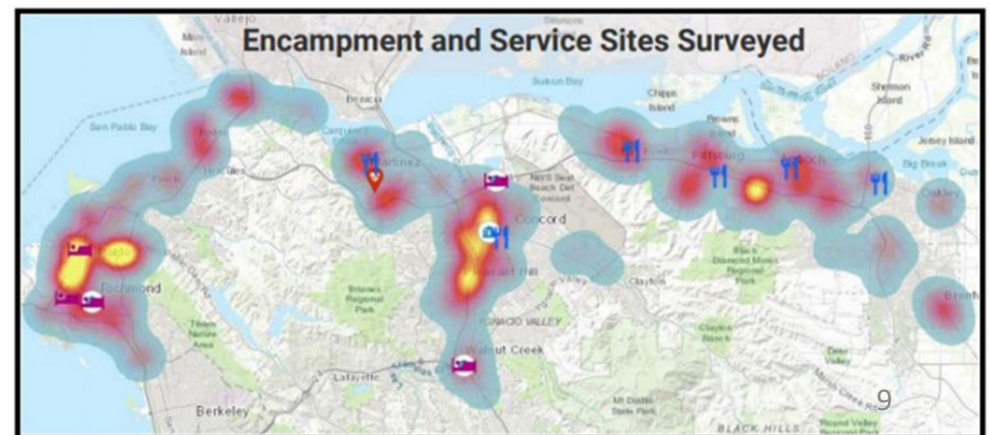
- Discharges of trash and human waste pose a significant threat to water quality
- Societal issues are complex
- Encourages local agencies to address adverse water quality impacts
- Water Board has the authority to regulate discharges of waste from homeless encampments

How do we regulate these discharges?

- NPDES Municipal Stormwater permits
 - Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit
 - Statewide Small and Non-traditional NPDES stormwater permit
 - Statewide Trash Amendments
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications
 - Work in and around creeks, flood control channels
- Petaluma River Bacteria TMDL
 - Measures to address potential impacts of homeless camps in municipal and Caltrans rights of way

Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit

- Prohibition against cause or contribution to impairment
- Trash control
- Proposed: Discharges associated with unsheltered homeless populations
 - Map encampment locations and populations
 - Identify needs
 - Report on portion of population reached by services
 - Coordinate regionally to share BMPs



What are cities and counties doing?

- Direct Discharge Control Programs
 - Identify sources of trash
 - Encampments
 - Illegal dumping
 - Describe control actions
 - Map affected receiving waters
 - Assess and report on controls and water quality benefit

What are cities and counties doing?

- Homelessness provision reflects work already being done
- Encampments
 - Provide sanitation services, including access to running water
 - Clean sidewalks, streets, and plazas
 - Collect trash
- Vehicles
 - Provide designated parking areas
 - Provide sewage disposal services (pump-out stations, mobile pumping services, voucher programs)
- Longer-term actions
 - Develop funding (e.g., Sonoma Measure O)
 - Modify response approaches (e.g., Kahoots)
 - Housing resources, services

Marin County: Binford Road, Novato

- 40 – 50 vehicles parked by Rush Creek Preserve
- Regular visits by outreach teams
- Porta-potty and handwash stations provided and maintained
- Regular trash pickups, cleanups
- Vouchers for RV pumpouts from MCSTOPPPP
- Parking restrictions?



Creek and Wetland Permits

- Stream Maintenance Programs
 - Trash and homeless encampment cleanup are allowable mitigation for temporary impacts
- BAFPA – Water Board Coordination
 - Considering general permit approach to address creekbank impacts of encampments

Caltrans Trash Control

- Cease and Desist Order issued in February 2019
 - Trash control benchmarks ~ 1,000 acres/year
 - Control trash from all Significant Trash Generating Areas of right-of-way by December 2030
 - Submit Workplans
- Cooperative implementation opportunities

Conclusion

