



Overview of Survey Results and Recommended Next Steps

**EC Task Force Meeting
July 24, 2023**

**Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority**



Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

- “Emerging Constituents” (ECs) are an array of pharmaceuticals, pesticides, food additives, and other common household chemicals for which water quality standards have not yet been established.
- Task Force efforts:
 - Oversee and investigate ECs
 - Data collection, data management, and reporting
 - Communication outreach on the safety/reliability of tap water



Photo credit: Water Education Foundation

Task Force Members

Chino Basin Watermaster	Irvine Ranch Water District
City of Beaumont	Jurupa Community Services District
City of Corona*	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
City of Redlands	Orange County Water District*
City of Rialto	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District*
City of Riverside*	San Geronio Pass Water Agency*
Colton/San Bernardino Regional Tertiary Treatment and Wastewater Reclamation Authority*	Temescal Valley Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District*	Western Municipal Water District*
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District*	Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Yucaipa Valley Water District

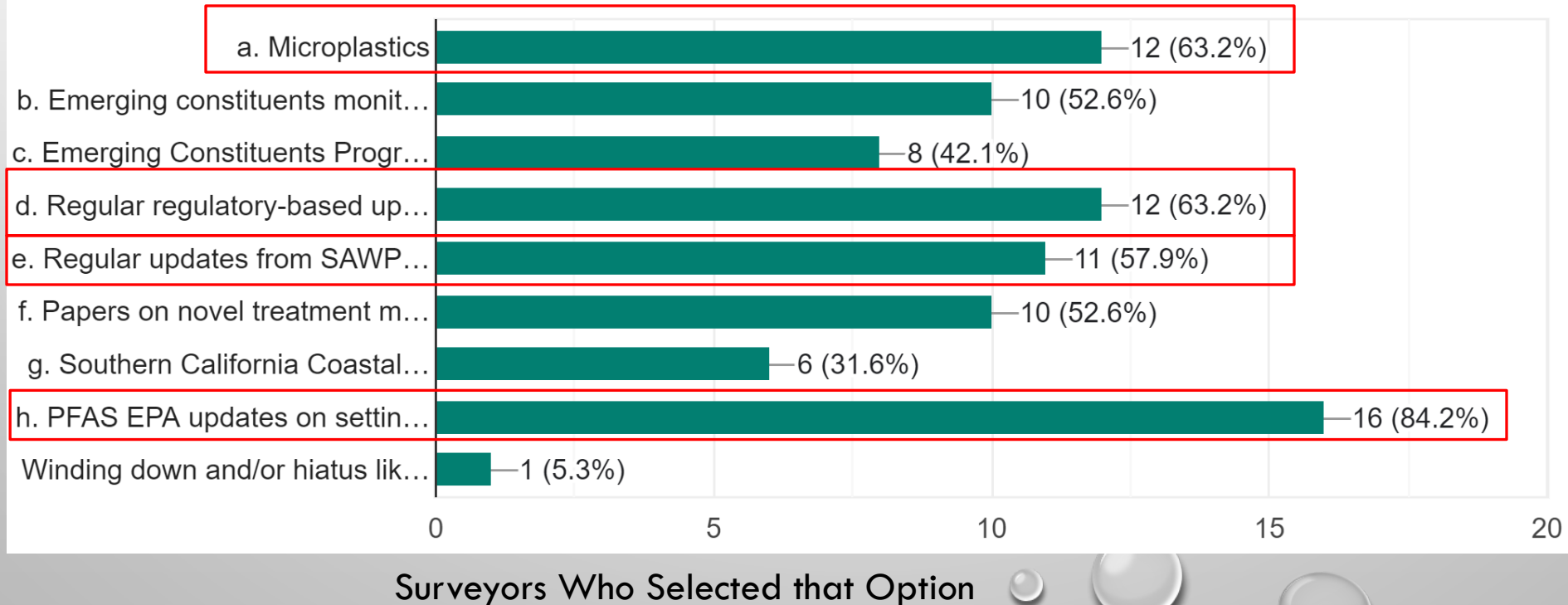
*Represents parties to the Regional Board Cooperative Agreement for Imported Water Recharge (San Bernardino MUD is also a party to this agreement)

May 2023 Anonymous Survey Results

1) Which topics of interest would you like the Task Force to focus on during future Task Force meetings? Select one or multiple options below:

19 responses

Options to Select





Survey Results – Highest Ranked

- a. Microplastics

- d. Regular regulatory-based updates from Regional Board

- e. Regular updates from SAWPA regulatory consultant

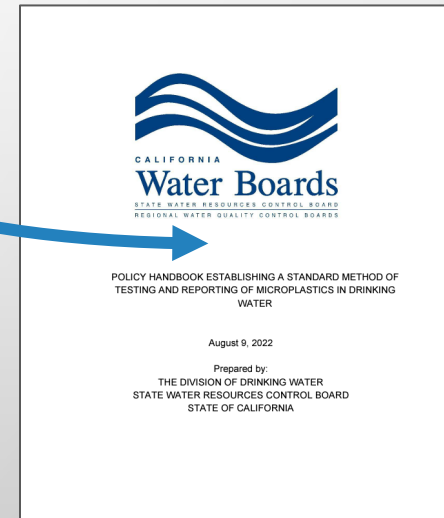
- h. PFAS EPA updates on setting Maximum Contaminant Levels for ECs

Other Suggestions for Improvement

- Links to **recordings**.
- **PFAS has appropriately been the main focus of** the Task Force's attention since the TF was rekindled in 2019 (after a 6-year hiatus). PFAS on path to become regulated in near future.
- The regulatory/technical drivers for the Task Force have changed over ~15 years...without PFAS, we **are in a similar 2014-2018 period** when Task Force was on hiatus.
- Information shared is **beneficial** and that the meetings remain on task.
- Include ECs in **wastewater treatment plants** effluent.
- **Round table at end** of concerns from other agencies.
- Additional photos **for toolkits + easy access folder** with all content.

Information on Microplastics

- [Senate Bill No. 1422](#) was filed in 2018 requiring State Water Board to adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water and a testing methodology.
- List of water agencies, with surface water treatment plants to do monitoring over four years (per the policy handbook), to be released soon.
- Policy handbook is focused on **drinking water** per the direction of the legislation. Microplastics research in other States is focused on rivers/streams.
- There is an existing ACWA Workgroup on Microplastics. MWDSC and others with surface water treatment plants involved.
- CA Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) does not have a specific workgroup on microplastics at this time.



Recommendations for the Task Force's Next Steps

- Answer the question - as the EC Task Force is a Santa Ana River Watershed-focused group, is a regional story we want to share?
- Would guest speakers with technical, regulatory and policy expertise be useful?

Items to Note:

- CASA is having conversations with various entities on PFAS.
- There are various chemicals in the PFAS family beyond the six with MCLs in development from US EPA, and two (PFOA and PFOS) with Public Health Goals from OEHHA.
- ACWA and MWDSC are having conversations with regulatory groups on microplastics.