



Regional Compliance for a Sustainable Bay Workshop 1

May 12, 2020 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

May 14, 2020 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

*Please note: The workshop content will be identical for both scheduled workshop sessions, so **interested stakeholders need only attend one session.** Please register for the Workshop at:*

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7456569407429752846>

Summary

The Cities of San Pablo, Walnut Creek and Richmond, in addition to Contra Costa County, have partnered for an EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund grant to develop and pilot a Regional Alternative Compliance System (System) in Contra Costa County (Project). The objective of the Project is to develop a System with the ability to efficiently and cost-effectively improve water quality, achieve multiple benefits, and reduce compliance pressures on permittees. It is intended that the System developed will help facilitate implementation of green stormwater infrastructure/low impact development (GSI/LID) across the San Francisco Bay Area with the potential for substantial cost savings, all while meeting Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit and TMDL water quality goals. **This Project will develop a Regional Alternative Compliance System for Contra Costa County, with the intent that the Project deliverables be easily adapted for other programs and entities** subject to the same water quality compliance requirements. Refer to the “Regional Alternative Compliance Project Description”, or the Project website for more details: <https://www.sanpabloca.gov/2685/Regional-Alternative-Compliance>.

We invite you to an introductory online Workshop to learn about the Project and provide feedback on May 12 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM or May 14 from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. **The workshop content will be identical for both sessions; interested stakeholders need only attend one session.** The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Introduce the Project and Project objectives
- Summarize the capabilities and limitations of Alternative Compliance Systems
- Identify and discuss major components of Alternative Compliance Systems
- Answer stakeholder questions or concerns about Alternative Compliance Systems

Pre-Workshop Request for Questions

We are interested in your questions and encourage advance submittal of questions so that we can address them during the workshop. Note that there will also be the opportunity to ask questions during the workshop, but we may not be able to respond to all given the expected number of participants. **Please enter questions you would like answered during the workshop into the webinar registration form or send to kathleen.cuschieri@panoramaenv.com by May 1, 2020.**

Workshop Agenda

Topic	Discussion	Facilitator	Duration
Introduction	Introduction and Overview; Approach to Interactive Web-based Workshop	Susanne Heim <i>Panorama Environmental</i>	15 min
Presentation	Overview of Project Objectives	Amanda Booth <i>City of San Pablo</i>	10 min
	Overview of Project Deliverables and Timeline	Kelly Havens <i>Geosyntec Consultants</i>	10 min
	Introduction to Alternative Compliance Systems	Mark Kieser <i>Kieser & Associates</i>	15 min
	Questions on Overall Project		10 min
Break			5 min
Alternative Compliance System Metric	a. What is it?	Kelly Havens	15 min
	b. Why is it important?		
	c. Bay Area Considerations		
	d. Audience Comments / Feedback		
"Exchange" Overview	a. What is 'exchanged'?	Mark Kieser	15 min
	b. How does this work?		
	c. Eligibility Considerations		
	d. Audience Comments / Feedback		
Control Measures to Achieve Metric	a. What are these and why are they important?	Mark Kieser / Kelly Havens	20 min
	b. Funding / Financing of Control Measures		
	c. Bay Area Considerations		
	d. Audience Comments / Feedback		
Certification	a. What is certification and why is this important?	Mark Kieser	15 min
	b. On-Going O&M		
	c. Audience Comments / Feedback		
Closing	Conclusion, Next Steps	Amanda Booth / Kelly Havens	10 min

The Workshop will be recorded and posted to the Project Website following the meeting:

<https://www.sanpabloca.gov/2685/Regional-Alternative-Compliance>

Glossary of Key Terms

Alternative Compliance Systems: Flexible compliance programs that allow regulated dischargers, with costly or infeasible pollution control requirements, to meet equivalent discharge reductions by investing in the implementation of cost-effective and feasible controls at other source locations, thereby achieving an overall environmental benefit at a reduced overall cost.

Alternative Compliance System Metric: A common measurement unit of equivalent pollutant discharge reduction that reflects both the regulatory pollution control requirement and the measurable or estimated outcome at the alternative source of control. This metric is often expressed as mass pollutant load reduction per time (e.g., pounds/year) or as a scientifically-defensible measure of equivalency between the regulatory requirement and the benefits metric from the alternative control (e.g., “acres greened”). The compliance metric in an alternative compliance system is the unit of water quality benefit, such as a pollution reduction credit or offset, that can be generated and utilized in the alternative compliance system.

Certification: Formal inspection, documentation and tracking of implemented actions are necessary to ensure the benefits, being exchanged as credits, are being achieved throughout time. Certification is a demonstration to all stakeholders that the project that is generating pollution reduction credits will meet expectations. Certification often involves third-party project reviews and physical inspections of implemented practices to ensure actions are appropriately designed, implemented and maintained to achieve intended outcomes, as defined by the Compliance System framework, guidelines and/or requirements.

Control Measures to Achieve Metric: An alternative compliance system requires the implementation of actions or control measures that result in measurable or estimated benefits, expressed in the context of the appropriate metric. These metric-defined benefits are exchanged as credits between entities. Control measures include installation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and other urban stormwater treatment or source control measures (especially those for PCBs and mercury or other sediment-bound pollutants).

“Exchange”: Exchange in this context refers to an alternative water quality compliance program, authorized at the permit, watershed or state level, for regulated discharges of pollutants. Such compliance programs allow for the exchange of pollution reduction credits between entities to mutually achieve required pollutant reductions. If surplus cost-effective pollutant reductions (or credits) can be achieved for a pollutant source—beyond the compliance requirement—these surpluses can be exchanged with another regulated entity for their alternative compliance. These alternative compliance programs often follow the 2003 US EPA Water Quality Trading (WQT) policy with adaptations to accommodate local compliance needs and physical settings.