

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Item 5

Staff Recommendation

April 26, 2017

**Research and Development of Scientific and Standardized Trash Monitoring Methods to Effectively Implement the Trash Amendments**

Holly Wyer, Program Manager

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$800,000 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to research, develop, field test, and standardize scientific trash monitoring methods.

**LOCATION:** Statewide

**STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S):**

Objective 10.2: Provide information to support implementation of policy initiatives and other efforts to reduce marine debris and its impacts.

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit A: OPC Letter to Water Board

Exhibit B: Letters of Support

Exhibit C: CEQA Notice of Exemption

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**FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings: "Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), the Ocean Protection Council hereby finds that:

- 1) The proposed project is consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the Ocean Protection Act.
- 2) The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council's grant program funding guidelines (Interim Standards and Protocols, August 2013).
- 3) The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under the the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15306 because the project involves only

data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.”

Staff further recommends that the OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“The California Ocean Protection Council hereby approves the disbursement of up to \$800,000 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to research, develop, field test, and standardize scientific trash monitoring methods.”

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, SCCWRP shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the project, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management and delivery.”

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

In 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) adopted an Amendment to the Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan) to Control Trash and Part 1 Trash Provision of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries (ISWEBE Plan). Together these are referred to as the Trash Amendments. The Trash Amendments prohibit discharge of trash larger than 5 millimeters to state waters from stormwater systems. The OPC sent a letter to the Water Board supporting adoption of the Trash Amendments in 2015 (see Exhibit A). The letter expresses the OPC’s interest in the use of scientific measures to track and verify program effectiveness; this project would enable SCCWRP to provide the research needed to develop scientific measures to monitor trash. SCCWRP is a leading environmental research institute that works to develop a scientific foundation for informed water quality management in California. Currently there is no agreed-upon scientific method to monitor for trash in water. This makes assessing permittees’ compliance and general progress on reducing trash in state waters difficult. This project would provide grant funding to SCCWRP to develop and field test scientific methods to measure trash in water and in stormwater channels. Multiple methods are needed, and would be tested, to measure trash in different habitats and flow conditions. SCCWRP would also determine how effective the methods are at accurately measuring the amount of trash in receiving waters. The methods tested in this project would aim to answer the following management questions:

- Has the amount of trash discharged from the stormwater system decreased from the previous year? If so, by how much? If not, explain why.
- Has the amount of trash in the stormwater system’s receiving water(s) decreased from

the previous year? If so, by how much? If not, explain why.

In addition, the State Water Board is interested in conducting monitoring in a way that allows them to determine overall progress towards achieving the goals of the trash amendments. As part of this project, SCCWRP would include opportunities for experts to provide technical advice on field testing, stakeholders to learn about the monitoring methods, and would recommend specific methods for use by permittees.

Specific objectives include:

- Field test approximately four methods to monitor for trash in receiving waters.
- Convene a technical advisory committee to provide advice and input throughout the project on methods to test, improvements to make to existing methods, and other areas of interest.
- Communicate with stakeholders about the project, the methods development and testing, and provide opportunities for Water Board permittees to learn how to effectively monitor their receiving waters.

The overarching goal of the project is to develop a method or suite of methods to monitor State receiving waters for trash. The methods developed will be applicable to many parts of the State, and not just one region.

**Project Timeline:** 3 years

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) authorize encumbrance of up to \$800,000 to SCCWRP to research, develop, and field test scientific trash monitoring methods.

Ocean Protection Council	\$800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Ocean Protection Council’s appropriation of Proposition 84. Proposition 84 authorizes the use of funds for purposes consistent with Section 35650 of the Public Resources Code, establishing the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund (Pub. Res. Code § 75060(g)). Under Section 35650(b), Ocean Protection Trust Fund monies may be expended for projects authorized by the OPC that are identified as appropriate Trust Fund purposes, as specified. The project is consistent with the Trust Fund purposes as discussed in the following section.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION ACT:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because it is consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which: Improve coastal water quality. This project will also coordinate the collection of scientific data to improve state efforts to protect and conserve ocean resources.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This project implements Focal Area A: Science-Based Decision Making, and Focal Area D: Coastal and Ocean Impacts from Land. Specifically, this project will provide the State with scientifically sound methods to assess stormwater permittees' compliance with the trash amendments. These methods will also enable the State to assess whether trash inputs to State waters from stormwater systems is changing in response to the Trash Amendments.

**CONSISTENCY WITH PROPOSITION 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006; Public Resources Code §75060(g))**

This project is consistent with the purposes outlined in Proposition 84, including the development of scientific data needed to adaptively manage the state's marine resources and reserves and the development and implementation of projects to conserve marine wildlife. Most trash pollution in the ocean comes from land-based sources; trash frequently makes its way to the ocean through storm drain systems, creeks, rivers, and other local waterways. In the ocean, trash can be mistaken for food by marine life, including seabirds and sea turtles, and is known to be ingested. Ingesting trash can negatively impact the health of marine life through physical blockage of their digestive system. In addition, plastic litter may impact marine wildlife through exposures to plasticizers and other chemicals associated with plastic, such as BPA, which can disrupt the hormonal system of marine life. This project will create a tool to accurately assess how much trash is going into waterways, help identify the associated sources of that trash, and inform management actions to reduce impacts from marine pollution on wildlife and habitats.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the OPC's Grant Program Funding Guidelines for Proposition 84 funds, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. Directly relate to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, or coastal-draining watersheds:  
This project will develop the scientific tools needed to assess whether permittees are in

compliance with the Trash Amendments and will enable the state to determine whether the Trash Amendments are successfully preventing discharge of trash to the ocean.

2. Support of the public: This project has support from a variety of stakeholders. See Exhibit B for letters of support.
3. Greater-than-local interest: This project is designed to be applicable to waterways throughout California, rather than waterways in just one region, and will provide value statewide.

#### Additional Criteria

4. Improvements to management approaches or techniques: This project will develop a new suite of techniques for measuring trash in water, which will enable the state to effectively implement the trash amendments.
5. Resolution of more than one issue: This project will develop a tool or monitoring methodology to measure trash in water. The immediate use for this tool is to assess compliance with the Trash Amendments and performance of the Trash Amendments as a whole. However, this tool may have broader utility to assess and resolve other ocean trash problems in the future.
6. Leverage: No leverage is currently available for this project, although this project builds on work previously funded by the Water Board as part of the Tracking California Trash Project.
7. Timeliness or Urgency: This project is responding to an urgent need to develop scientific monitoring methods for trash to effectively implement the Trash Amendments. SCCWRP is a leading environmental research institute that frequently works on projects to design and improve scientific methodologies, and has the capacity to complete the project in a timely fashion.
8. Coordination: This project will involve coordination between SCCWRP, other research organizations, as well as state and local government partners.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15306 because the project involves only data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval by the OPC.



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair  
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor, State Lands Commission Chair  
Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Bill Quirk, State Assemblymember  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Michael Brown, Public Member

Exhibit A

March 26, 2015

Chair Felicia Marcus and Board Members  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0200

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members,

I am writing to express the California Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) support for the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash. The proposed trash amendments would create the first statewide plan in the nation to specifically target a reduction in the amount of trash entering our waterways and ocean. Trash is a significant pollutant in California's waters that adversely affects beneficial uses, including but not limited to uses that support aquatic life and public health. A consistent statewide approach to controlling trash discharges into waters of the state is needed and the trash amendments will be a significant step towards a healthier California coast and ocean by reducing the amount of trash being discharged and ending up into the ocean.

Marine debris continues to be a high priority for the OPC as laid out in the *2012 – 2017 OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan*, and we have passed multiple resolutions on preventing and reducing marine debris. OPC is involved with a broad array of both statewide and regional efforts, including providing essential staff support to the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health Marine Debris Working Group. This group recently adopted a West Coast wide marine debris strategy that encourages the adoption of trash control plans for stormwater. California could serve as a model for the West Coast by adopting the proposed amendments.

The OPC values the use of scientific measures to track and verify program effectiveness and encourages the SWRCB to set compliance monitoring criteria to demonstrate trash reduction as a result of adoption of the trash amendments. Specifically, the OPC recommends that permittees selecting Track 2 be provided with guidelines to monitor trash and report on trash reductions in addition to reporting on the controls being used. Supporting sound and effective policies such as these will help provide statewide consistency for the SWRCB's approach protecting our economy, communities and wildlife.

We strongly support the proposed amendments and look forward to working with the State Water Resources Control Board as it moves towards adoption and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair  
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
John Chiang, State Controller, State Lands Commission Chair  
Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Toni Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Michael Brown, Public Member

### **Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council supporting the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of a Trash Policy**

**Adopted August 27, 2014**

WHEREAS, the presence of trash in waterways, on beaches, and in the ocean adversely affects beneficial uses, including threats to aquatic life, wildlife, public health, recreation, fishing, and other economic activities; and

WHEREAS, trash in waterways, on beaches, and in the ocean harms animals by ingestion, entrapment and entanglement; and

WHEREAS, trash reduces aesthetic and economic value of recreation areas including beaches, and may endanger public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, trash entering storm drains or inland waterways may eventually be deposited on coastal beaches or in the ocean; and studies have found that approximately 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources; and

WHEREAS, once trash has entered the ocean it is extremely difficult and expensive to remove; and

WHEREAS, waste minimization and effective management play a key role in reducing the amount of marine debris entering our oceans; and

WHEREAS, trash has been accumulating in many California waterways and beaches, and according to California's 2008-2010 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters, there are 73 listings due to trash in California waters; and

WHEREAS, in California, 13 water bodies have approved total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impairments due to trash; and some waters are so clogged with trash that they are unfit for swimming, fishing, and other recreational or economic uses; and

WHEREAS, California has made great strides to control trash at its source through local source control ordinances, this policy should complement source control ordinances and further reduce the amount of trash that flows into to our beaches and ocean; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Trash Amendments are precedential and would become the first statewide plan in the nation to specifically target a reduction in the amount of trash entering our waterways and ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Five-Year Strategic Plan proposes that the Council should "support the [State Water Resources Control Board] and other agencies in adopting and implementing a statewide trash policy and other relevant trash regulations."



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Toni Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Michael Brown, Public Member

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES that, the Ocean Protection Council supports the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Trash Amendments, and the Chairman of the Council will write a letter of support on behalf of the Council to the State Water Resources Control Board to encourage adoption the proposed Amendments to Statewide Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash. This letter shall include recommendations that the Board's Trash Policy consider including additional requirements for measuring the success of programs, including monitoring and reporting by responsible entities.





## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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John Chiang, State Controller, State Lands Commission Chair  
Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Toni Atkins, State Assemblymember  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Michael Brown, Public Member

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Ocean Protection Council  
FROM: Karen Kayfetz, Sea Grant Fellow  
DATE: August 27, 2014  
RE: Resolution supporting the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of a Trash Policy

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution supporting the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of a Trash Policy

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### REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

"The California Ocean Protection Council hereby resolves that, the Chairman of the Council will write a letter of support on behalf of the Council to the State Water Resources Control Board to encourage adoption the proposed Amendments to Statewide Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash. This letter shall include recommendations that the Board's Trash Policy consider including additional requirements for measuring the success of programs that encourage the reduction of waste rather than its full capture, including monitoring and reporting by responsible entities who adopt this approach."

### BACKGROUND:

Marine debris is a major threat to the health of our oceans and has been a high priority for the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), which passed a resolution on preventing and reducing marine debris in 2007 and a resolution endorsing extended producer responsibility in 2009. The 2012-2017 OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan identifies marine debris as a priority issue and provides the guidance for the OPC to focus on "reducing the amount of plastics and trash that enter the environment." The majority of marine debris comes from land-based sources including industrial outfalls, landfills, littering, dumping, and poor waste management. Trash discarded on land frequently ends up in waterways and the ocean as rainstorms wash it into gutters, storm drains, creeks, and rivers. The presence of trash in waterways, on beaches, and in the ocean adversely affects wildlife, public health, and the economy. Furthermore, the OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan specifically recommends that the Council should "support the [State Water Resources Control Board] and other agencies in adopting and implementing a statewide trash policy and other relevant trash regulations."

Trash has been accumulating in many California waterways and beaches, and there are currently 73 waterways in California listed as "impaired waters" pursuant to the Clean Water Act. Some waters are so clogged with trash that they are unfit for swimming, fishing, and other recreational and economic uses. Trash is considered a pollutant subject to regulation under the Clean Water

## SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION OF A STATEWIDE TRASH POLICY

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Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Where runoff and storm water transport trash into state and federal waters, it is considered a discharge of waste subject to Water Board authority. Studies show that trash is predominantly generated on land and then transported through storm water to receiving water bodies.

Numerous statewide laws and local ordinances have been adopted in California to address trash. For instance, anti-litter laws, bans on polystyrene foam takeout food containers, and bottle deposits. Under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waterways. Existing NPDES permits have requirements for trash reduction in the form of institutional controls, such as street sweeping and educational programs. However, to date, California has no statewide guidance on how local governments should reduce the amount of trash that flows into its waters.

For those waters that do not attain water quality standards even after NPDES permits are issued to point sources, the Clean Water Act requires states to adopt Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the pollutants causing impairment. The Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a TMDL for trash for the New River that also included a numeric target of zero trash. The Los Angeles Water Board has adopted numerous trash and debris TMDLs, setting the numeric target for trash in the applicable water bodies to zero. Implementation of the Los Angeles program started in 2007, and has significantly reduced trash from entering waterways in that region. The program is under budget, ahead of schedule, and is currently estimated to stop over one million pounds of trash each year from entering waters through storm drains. The San Francisco Bay Water Board uses provisions in the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit to prohibit trash discharges, without a numeric target but with narrative language. Current approaches to regulate trash in California regions are not entirely consistent, and there is not yet a statewide narrative objective for trash reduction. The SWRCB has identified a strong need for a statewide consistency regarding trash control.

Inspired by successes in Los Angeles and other regions, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) started working in 2010 on a statewide plan to reduce trash discharges into state waterways. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the "Draft Amendments to Statewide Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash" (Trash Amendments) for public comment. The Trash Amendments, if adopted, would become the first statewide plan in the nation to reduce the amount of trash entering our waterways. The Trash Amendments set a narrative objective for zero trash in state waterways. The Trash Amendments would require that NPDES permits and permits for discharges of stormwater include plans for how to prevent trash from being discharged. The proposed Trash Amendments would provide a narrative objective that refers to trash as a specific pollutant, which no current regional basin plans do. The adoption of the Trash Amendments would be a positive step towards a healthier California coast and ocean by reducing the amount of trash that is discharged from land onto beaches and into the ocean.

The Trash Amendments outline two tracks to compliance in newly issued NPDES and stormwater discharge permits. Track 1 would require permittees to install, operate, and maintain full-capture systems in all storm drains that capture runoff from areas that have high potential to

## SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION OF A STATEWIDE TRASH POLICY

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generate trash, as identified in the SWRCB staff report on the Trash Amendments. Compliance with Track 1 is measured by demonstrating installation, operation, and maintenance of the systems. Track 2 would require permittees to implement a plan with a combination of full capture systems, other treatment controls, institutional controls, and/or multi-benefit projects. Compliance with Track 2 is measured by implementing and reporting a set of monitoring objectives that are selected by the permittee. The combination of controls implemented by permittees choosing Track 2 are meant to achieve reductions equivalent to Track 1. Permittees choosing Track 2 are required to report on the implementation of their trash controls, but are not actually required to monitor amounts of trash present or amounts of trash discharged to waterways.

### **RECOMENDATONS:**

Staff recommends that the OPC adopt a resolution to write a letter of support on behalf of the Council to the SWRCB to encourage adoption of the Trash Amendments. The first comment period has closed and the Trash Amendments will undergo further revision and be re-released for further comment in the fall of 2014. The resolution, if adopted, would authorize a letter of support be submitted in the second phase of public comments.

Furthermore, the OPC values the use of scientific measures to verify program effectiveness. Therefore the proposed resolution also urges the SWRCB to provide compliance monitoring criteria to demonstrate trash reduction as a result of adoption of the Trash Amendments. Specifically staff recommends that permittees selecting Track 2 are provided with guidelines to monitor trash and report on trash reductions in addition to reporting on the controls being used to achieve those reductions.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH THE CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION ACT:**

The proposed action is consistent with the California Ocean Protection Act (Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code). Section 35615(a)(1) specifically directs the Council to coordinate activities of state agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources, establish policies to coordinate the collection of scientific data related to the ocean, and recommend changes in state or federal law. It is also consistent with Section 35515(f) which directs the Council to identify scientific research and planning that is useful for the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems, and coordinate and assist state agencies in addressing those needs.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Passage of the resolution is consistent with the guidance of Goal D (Coastal and Ocean Impacts from Land), Issue 10: Marine Debris. Specifically the resolution is consistent with the following action proposed in the strategic plan:

“Support the SWRCB and other agencies in adopting and implementing a statewide trash policy and other relevant trash regulations.”

Adoption of the resolution promotes the adoption of the Trash Amendments by providing OPC endorsement, and provides additional encouragement for the SWRCB to provide clear compliance monitoring criteria to demonstrate the beneficial impact of the policy. This action serves the OPC's larger goal of reducing the amount of trash that enters the environment.

## **Exhibit B: Letters of Support**

March 17, 2017

Exhibit B

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Research and Development of Standardized Trash Monitoring Methods

Dear Secretary Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

We are pleased to provide the following letter of support for the Research and Development of Standardized Trash Monitoring Methods Project.

Algalita, founded in 1994, is dedicated to the protection and improvement of the marine environment and its watersheds through research and education on the impacts of plastic pollution. To do this, Algalita has focused on using our own research both in the North Pacific Gyre and locally within Southern California. In 1999, Algalita completed our well-known and highly cited study on plastic in the North Pacific Gyre. Through this study the first protocols for monitoring marine plastic debris were developed. Many of these protocols are now used worldwide by oceanographic researchers and citizen scientists.

Since that first study, Algalita has worked with organizations such as the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and others on several projects to develop standardized protocols to study trash in a variety of habitats. In 2000-2001, we conducted the first study of neustonic plastic and zooplankton off the coast of Southern California. This was followed by a study focusing on plastic and zooplankton at different depths within the water column. In 2013 Algalita was part of the Southern California Bight Debris Survey, which focused on research for monitoring trash in rivers and streams, epibenthic macro debris, and microplastics in marine sediments.

Through these projects, we have recognized the value of developing standardized methodologies for studying trash and debris to ensure data comparability and scientific integrity on a larger scale. The development of methodologies for all to use is important as we move forward to determine whether our education and outreach to the public is being effective.

We highly encourage you to support this project as it will benefit many who are concerned with our environment and our effects on it.

Sincerely,



Katie Allen  
Executive Director  
Algalita Marine Research and Education  
148 North Marina Drive | Long Beach | CA | 90814  
www.algalita.org

DRAFT  
Notice of Exemption

DRAFT

DRAFT  
Appendix E

Exhibit C

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From: (Public Agency): Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Research and Development of Scientific and Standardized Trash Monitoring Methods to 

Project Applicant: The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

Project Location - Specific:

Statwide, in coastal waterways

Project Location - City: see above Project Location - County: see above

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project would develop and field test scientific methods to measure trash in receiving waters and in stormwater channels. Field testing may involve placing trawls, booms, or other temporary structures in creeks, rivers, estuaries, the ocean, and stormwater channels to test monitoring methods and technologies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Ocean Protection Council

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306: Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is categorically exempt under Class 6: Information Collection, because the project involves only data collection, research, and evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Holly Wyer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-653-0538

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_