

State Water Resources Control Board

July 12, 2018

Holy Wyer, Project Manager
Ocean Protection Council
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Wyer,


This letter is to express the State Water Board Division of Water Quality's (DWQ) support for the proposed funding of a Science Advisory Panel on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Aquatic Ecosystems, specifically coastal and marine ecosystems. DWQ is committed to partnering with the Ocean Protection Council to also fund the Science Advisory Panel to examine CECs in freshwater ecosystems and is currently working to prepare an agreement to fund the freshwater ecosystem portion of the project.

The State Water Board previously convened a Science Advisory Panel on CECs in Aquatic Ecosystems, which released their final report of recommendations for monitoring in 2012. Since 2012, several regional water boards have completed CEC monitoring studies and it is likely that updated toxicological information is available for many CECs. DWQ supports convening a Science Advisory Panel to assess recent monitoring data and incorporate updated toxicological information into the risk-based framework that was developed in the 2012 report, as well as examining the risk-based framework to determine if any updates to the framework are needed.

We see great value in convening a Science Advisory Panel on CECs in Aquatic Ecosystems to update the monitoring and research recommendations made in the previous 2012 report. In addition, there is support for convening a Panel from the stakeholder community, and their involvement will inform the process and ensure that there is public participation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tessa Fojut at (916) 323-5511 or Tessa.Fojut@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Karen Mogus
Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Barbara A. Lee, Director
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 20, 2018

Ms. Holly Wyer
Project Manager
Ocean Protection Council
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Wyer:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is strongly supportive of the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) proposed funding of an expert panel on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in coastal waters. DTSC's Safer Consumer Product Program (SCP) is constantly striving to protect the citizens and environments of California through the reduction and elimination of the use of toxic chemicals, and is invested in ensuring that California's efforts to manage its valued water resources are not hampered by the presence of CECs.

In our 2018-2021 Priority Product Work Plan, SCP established goals and policy statements to inform the prioritization and selection of Priority Products. One of these goals was "to protect California's valuable and limited water resources and aquatic ecosystems from consumer product-derived chemical contamination." Given SCP's limited resources, a thorough assessment and prioritization of CECs with the potential to cause adverse impacts to California aquatic ecosystems would be of great value to our program as we strive to meet this goal.

SCP especially appreciates the opportunity to work with other stakeholders to craft the management questions. Of critical importance to our program is that the Panel consider data-poor chemicals in their assessment and strive to close data gaps whenever appropriate and possible. Given the flexibility inherent in SCP's regulations, our Program is able to address chemicals that are truly of emerging concern despite data gaps and would appreciate the expert panel's perspective on which chemicals fall into this category.

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As noted in the Staff Report, SCP has the potential to take true source control measures for CECs. At the same time, SCP's work will be strengthened through successful implementation of OPC's strategic plan objective to support an integrated approach to water management. Clearly this effort is mutually beneficial to our organizations. We look forward to working with other stakeholders to craft appropriate management questions and appreciate the commitment of the Ocean Protection Council to protecting our coastal and marine ecosystems.

Please contact Dr. Anne-Cooper Doherty at (916) 324-1088 or anne.doherty@dtsc.ca.gov if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Meredith Williams, PhD.
Deputy Director
Safer Products and Workplaces Program

cc: Dr. Anne-Cooper Doherty
Safer Products & Workplaces Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814



July 23, 2018

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic mail to: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

RE: Item 5c: Support Updating Monitoring Recommendations for Emerging Contaminants in Coastal Waters

Dear Secretary Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The undersigned organizations are in strong support of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to convene and facilitate an expert panel to update monitoring recommendations for contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in coastal waters. By approving this project, OPC would fill a longstanding and important gap in addressing CECs in coastal and marine waters.

CECs are an exponentially growing problem, with over 30 million chemicals currently listed on the Chemical Abstract Service Registry and over 4,000 new chemicals added daily. These pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and pesticides are released into waterways through treated wastewater discharges and polluted runoff from urban and agriculture communities. CECs are currently discharged into California waterways unregulated and unmonitored, with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) CEC monitoring protocols solely focused on public health and not on threats to aquatic life. This project would allow OPC to provide the State Water Board with timely guidance and recommendations to require CEC monitoring in coastal and marine environments. Importantly, this project would be a critical complement as the State Water Board begins to develop protocols for inland CEC ambient monitoring.

SCCWRP is well positioned to convene this panel as a lead research organization working on coastal water contaminants, including work on the State Water Board's Monitoring Strategies for CECs in Recycled Water and an OPC-funded project for CEC screening in the Southern California Bight. The undersigned organizations believe that stakeholder participation will be vital throughout the panel process, and support OPC's plan to meet with State Water Board staff, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) staff, and other interested agencies and stakeholders to refine the management questions that the panel will address.

OPC's investment in this project will improve California's marine and coastal water quality by filling an

important gap in science, providing critical guidance to the State Water Board's statewide CEC management strategy, and informing DTSC's safe consumer product recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sean Bothwell
Policy Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Annelisa Moe
Water Quality Scientist
Heal the Bay

George H. Leonard, PhD
Chief Scientist
Ocean Conservancy

Rikki Eriksen, PhD
Director, Marine Protected Areas Program
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation