



State Water Resources Control Board

August 9, 2023

Ella McDougall, Climate Change Manager
Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 958145

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
FUNDING FROM OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL FOR SEA LEVEL
RISE EVALUATION FOR CONTAMINATED PROPERTIES**

Dear Ms. McDougall:

Thank you for your agency's leadership in addressing climate change and sea level rise. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) supports the proposed Ocean Protection Council (OPC) funding to the State Water Board to evaluate properties with historical contamination releases that may be at risk to sea level rise and associated groundwater level responses. The proposed state grant will fund efforts to help identify and include sites in the State Water Board's GeoTracker Data Management System (GeoTracker) for prioritization. Additionally, the proposed funding will help to support development of a public dashboard for known and potential contaminated properties that may be subject to sea level rise. The Toxic Tides initiative brought attention to the potential for contaminated sites to be inundated by sea level rise. This proposed scope of work will allow the Water Board to identify and prioritize sites that may pose increased health risks to communities as sea level and groundwater levels rise.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve McMasters at 916-341-5518 or by email at steven.mcmasters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Mogus".

Karen Mogus, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

cc (via email):

Annalisa Kihara, State Water Board
Cheryl Prowell, State Water Board
Steve McMasters, State Water Board
Dayna Cordano, State Water Board
Todd Sax, Department of Toxics Substances Control
Dominique Forrester, Department of Toxic Substances Control



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Director
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806



Gavin Newsom
Governor

LETTER SENT VIA EMAIL

August 11, 2023

Ms. Ella McDougall
Climate Change Manager
Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, California 958145
Ella.McDougall@resources.ca.gov

SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL FUNDING FROM OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL FOR SEA LEVEL RISE EVALUATION FOR CONTAMINATED PROPERTIES

Dear Ms. McDougall:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) would like to thank you and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for your continued commitment to addressing sea level rise (SLR). DTSC fully supports the proposed OPC grant funding to the DTSC to assist with evaluating the potential impacts of SLR at contaminated sites. Consistent with OPC's minimum planning target of 6.0 feet SLR by the year 2100, our estimates show that approximately 900 contaminated sites regulated by DTSC may be impacted by either saltwater inundation or groundwater shoaling.

The proposed OPC grant funding will help to:

- a) build programmatic capacity within DTSC to assess and manage vulnerabilities and impacts of SLR on contaminated sites;
- b) update/expand EnviroStor to increase site data to allow the application to be more useful;
- c) prioritize sites for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning; and
- d) increase the DTSC knowledge base around fate and transport of contaminants when comingled with saltwater.

Ms. Ella McDougall
August 11, 2023
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Dominique Forrester at (916) 255-3613 or by email at Dominique.Forrester@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Todd Sax, D.Env.
Deputy Director
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: Ms. Annalisa Kihara, Annalisa.Kihara@waterboards.ca.gov
Ms. Cheryl Prowell, Cheryl.Prowell@waterboards.ca.gov
Mr. Steve McMasters, Steve.McMasters@waterboards.ca.gov
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Mr. Brian Brown, Brian.Brown@dts.ca.gov
Mr. Dominique Forrester, Dominique.Forrester@dtsc.ca.gov
Mr. Greg Neal, Greg.Neal@dtsc.ca.gov



Earth and Planetary Sciences Department
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July 29, 2023

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

RE: Letter of Support for Item 6: Consideration and Approval to Disburse Funds for Contaminated Sites Inventory and Remediation Prioritization to Address Risk from Sea-Level Rise

As the Ocean Protection Council knows well, the ongoing and accelerating rise in sea level along the state's coastline will have a variety of impacts in the years and decades ahead. While many of these, such as increased frequency, duration and extent of shoreline flooding are perhaps more evident, equally problematic are the impacts that elevated sea levels will have on the very large number of contaminated sites located in the 1100-mile-long coastal zone. How the rising seas and the interconnected groundwater tables of the future will mobilize the contaminants buried in these sites is an issue the state needs to understand, along with which sites to prioritize for treatment or cleanup. In many cases, these sites are within or adjacent to low income or minority neighborhoods.

The proposed project is a well-planned joint effort between the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the State Water Board to develop the capacity within both agencies to assess and manage the impacts of sea-level rise on contaminated sites through an update and expansion of the existing data bases of these sites on a state-wide basis (Envirostor and GeoTracker). Modernization of the cleanup sites records, developing metrics for prioritization, creating a guidance document for a user-friendly workflow methods for mapping groundwater pollution sources and vulnerable areas, are each timely and important objects for these two agencies.

As the Principal Investigator for an OPC-Proposition 68-funded project (*Characterizing Toxic Waste Sites in the San Francisco Bay Region and Their Exposure to Future Sea-Level Rise and Groundwater Flooding*), our team has been in contact with the key individuals involved with the Water Board and DTSC proposals and have discussed each team's objectives and approaches, which are complimentary and mutually beneficial. We look forward to interacting with them and the state will benefit from the results of both of these timely and crucial efforts. This joint state agency project has my strong support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Griggs".

Gary Griggs
Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences