



## 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