



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

**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 through its Clean Water Act storm water program, 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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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

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 ~~that encourage the reduction of waste rather than its full capture,~~ including monitoring and reporting by responsible entities ~~who adopt this approach.~~

DRAFT