

State Water Resources Control Board

March 14, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Wyer

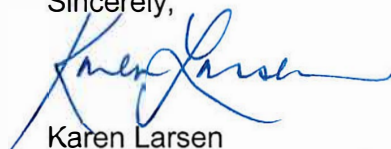
This letter is to express the State Water Board Division of Water Quality's (DWQ) support for the study proposed by Drs. Mehinto, Maruya and Du entitled, "Screening for Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Sediment and Fish Tissues from the Southern California Bight".

DWQ recognizes that current chemical-by-chemical monitoring alone is not sufficient to assess the impact of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) discharged into receiving waters. Based on the recommendations of a CEC Scientific Expert Panel, the DWQ has invested in the development and pilot-testing of bioanalytical screening tools for use in ambient and recycled monitoring programs. The initial results indicate that these tools could enhance current practices and improve our ability to monitor known CECs, and identify problematic new or unknown chemicals. The DWQ also is interested in the application of non-targeted chemical analyses to increase the universe of chemicals subject to periodic monitoring. Because these new tools show great promise in advancing our understanding of CEC exposure and potential for impact in coastal waters, DWQ staff have recently included these elements as part of their core "CEC Initiative".

For these reasons, we see great value in the study proposed by Mehinto *et al.* that aims to 1) assess the extent and magnitude of CECs present in SoCal sediment and sportfish; 2) correlate CEC bioscreening responses with targeted chemistry, non-targeted chemistry and toxicity data.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Claire Waggoner at (916) 341-5582 or Claire.Waggoner@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Karen Larsen
Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOS-NCCOS-CCMA
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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

April 5, 2018

Dear Ms. Wyer:

I am writing to express my full support for Dr. Mehinto's proposal titled, "Screening for Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Sediment and Fish Tissues from the Southern California Bight". As a Physical Scientist at NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), I am one of the lead for National Mussel Watch Program (MWP), the nation's longest running coastal contamination monitoring program. The program uses bivalves such as oysters as sentinel organisms to monitor organism health and the presence chemical pollutants in coastal locations nationwide. Recently the MWP started investing in the assessment of contaminant of emerging concern (CEC), to understand their magnitude, distribution and their ecological health impacts. This year, the program is intending to partner with the Southern California Bight' 18 program to conduct a multi-media assessment of a suite CECs.

As part of the Bight' 18 program, Dr Mehinto's proposal will assess potential health effects linkages to CEC exposure in fish. The NOAA MWP is very supportive of Dr Mehinto's proposal to 1) utilize novel screening tools to screen for CECs for which standardized analytical methods may not be available, and 2) investigate the bioaccumulation of these compounds in fish tissues. We believe that data from her study would greatly enhance our ability to interpret biological impacts of CEC exposure. Additionally, this study could improve monitoring actions for CEC in the environment.

I believe that the project has all the merits of advancing the science of environmental monitoring of CECs, and strongly encourage you to consider it for funding.

For further information regarding this recommendation, please contact me Dr. Dennis Apeti at 240-533-0337 or Dennis.Apeti@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


Dennis Apeti, Ph.D.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOS/NCCOS

