



California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Matthew Rodriguez
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

Jonathan Bishop & Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Co-Chairs

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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John Laird
*Secretary for
Natural Resources*

March 7, 2013

**Monitoring Council
Members**

Jonathan Bishop
*Environmental Protection
Agency*

California Congressional Delegation (attached list)

Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Natural Resources Agency

CALIFORNIA'S COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL MUSSEL WATCH PROGRAM

Leah Walker
Dept. of Public Health

Armand Ruby
Stormwater

Dear Senator/Congressperson:

Mike Connor
*Publicly Owned
Treatment Works*

The State of California's Water Quality Monitoring Council, an Advisory Board formed in compliance with California Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006), is writing to recognize the support provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Mussel Watch monitoring program.

Parry Klassen
Agriculture

Mussel Watch is nationally significant program that is even more important to California because it has partnered with state and local agencies (California State Water Resources Control Board, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and San Francisco Estuary Institute) to expand the program locally. That expansion has allowed Mussel Watch to grow beyond its historical focus to now include measuring contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), such as flame retardants, non-stick compounds, pharmaceuticals, water soluble pesticides, and nanoparticles. Through these efforts, we have learned that California has some of the highest levels of these contaminants in the nation, something of which regulatory agencies in California were largely unaware prior to partnering with the Mussel Watch program.

John Norton
Citizen Monitoring

Sara Aminzadeh
Public

While the collaboration between Mussel Watch and California has been an unequivocal success, recent budget constraints jeopardize continuation of the Mussel Watch program. Discontinuing or reconfiguring Mussel Watch will have significant impacts on the management utility of this program to California. As the longest running continuous contaminant-monitoring program in U.S. coastal waters, Mussel Watch provides irreplaceable time series data that provide long-term context against which management actions can be understood.

Stephen Weisberg
Scientific Community

Sarge Green
Water Supply

Given the proven value of Mussel Watch to California, our hope is that the program receives continued support in the future.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing Cal/EPA



Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke, Chief Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing the Natural Resources Agency

cc: Holly Bamford, Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, NOAA/NOS
Kathryn Sullivan, Deputy Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection
John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Tom Howard, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board

Senators:

Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer

Congresspersons:

Karen Bass
Xavier Becerra
Ami Bera
Julia Brownley
Ken Calvert
John Campbell
Lois Capps
Tony Cardenas
Judy Chu
Paul Cook
Jim Costa
Susan Davis
Jeff Denham
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Sam Farr
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Duncan D. Hunter
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Doug LaMalfa
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Tom McClintock
Buck McKeon

Jerry McNerney
Gary Miller
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Devin Nunes
Nancy Pelosi
Scott Peters
Dana Rohrabacher
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ed Royce
Raul Ruiz
Linda Sanchez
Loretta Sanchez
Adam Schiff
Brad Sherman
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Mark Takano
Mike Thompson
David Valadao
Juan Vargas
Maxine Waters
Henry Waxman