





February 13, 2019

Senator Bob Hertzberg
State Capitol, Suite 313
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via fax: (916) 651-4918

RE: SB 205 – Industrial General Permit Non-Filers (Hertzberg) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The undersigned organizations advocate for the protection of environmental and public health, water quality, and a resilient water future. On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 205, to address the pervasive issue of industrial facilities that remain unregulated by clean water laws.

In California, over half of the state's lakes, bays, wetlands and estuaries are too polluted to swim, drink or fish. A range of metals – from copper, lead, selenium, mercury, and organic compounds regularly used in industrial processes – consistently exceed water quality standards. There are approximately 10,000 registered industrial storm water dischargers in California, including oil refineries, landfills, manufacturing plants, auto yards, scrap metal recyclers. Material on these industrial sites and facilities often remain uncovered and exposed to the outdoors, allowing rain to pick up a variety of highly hazardous pollutants and wash into our waterways. This regular discharge of toxic metals, oil and grease, and bacteria affects the health of California communities and aquatic ecosystems, making nearby rivers and beaches unsafe to use and enjoy.

The State Water Board's Industrial General Permit (IGP) regulates industrial stormwater discharges from industrial facilities throughout California. Despite the approximate 10,000 industrial discharges that have enrolled under this permit, there are tens of thousands more dischargers that have failed to even enroll in the Permit. This lack of enrollment means the proliferation of polluted discharge into California's waterways and the inability of individual municipalities to comply with water quality requirements due to unknown sources of pollution.

SB 205 addresses the pervasive issue of unenrolled industrial facilities by requiring applicable facilities to demonstrate compliance with the IGP when applying for or renewing a business license. This allows local municipalities and the Water Boards to readily identify industrial discharges and ensure these discharges are enrolled under the statewide permit. This bill further ensures filing fees reach the State and Regional Water Boards responsible for the enforcement of this permit, as the program has remained handicapped by the unknown number of facilities that either do not file for a discharge permit or non-exposure certificate, and therefore do not pay fees to support the program.

California faces chronic contamination to its rivers, streams, and beaches due to unidentified and unregulated sources of industrial pollution. This bill can support enforcement and compliance with state and federal clean water laws, benefitting our individual communities and the environment. We strongly support SB 205 and we applaud Senator Hertzberg for addressing this pervasive issue affecting California's water quality.

Sincerely,

Sean Bothwell
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

CALIFORNIA COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE

156 2ND STREET | SAN FRANCISCO, CA | 94105 | 916-403-1123 | CACOASTKEEPER.ORG

Garry Brown
President
Coachella Valley Waterkeeper
Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Orange County Coastkeeper

Jennifer Kalt
Director
Humboldt Baykeeper

Bruce Reznik
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Steve Shimek
Coastkeeper & Executive Director
Monterey Coastkeeper
The Otter Project

Don McEnhill
Riverkeeper & Executive Director
Russian Riverkeeper

Matt O'Malley
Executive Director & Managing Attorney
San Diego Coastkeeper

Kira Redmond
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Melinda Booth
Waterkeeper
Yuba River Waterkeeper

Jeffrey Odefey
Director, Clean Water Supply Programs
American Rivers

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Emily Jeffers
Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Amanda C. Nelson
Executive Director
Foothill Conservancy

Annelisa Moe
Water Quality Scientist
Heal the Bay

Steve Fleischli
Senior Director for Water Initiatives
& Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Jonas Minton
Senior Water Policy Advisor
Planning and Conservation League

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Dr. Elizabeth Dougherty
Director
Wholly H2O