



San Diego Chapter  
*Serving the Environment in San Diego and Imperial Counties*  
8304 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard #101  
San Diego, CA 92111

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD

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October 31, 2008

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92123-4353  
Attention: Ms. Chiara Clemente

Subject: Tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0128 to Support the "No Drugs Down The Drain" Campaign  
Attachment: Sierra Club fact sheet; *Consumer Products Threaten Aquatic Life: What Citizens Can Do*

Dear Chairman Wright and Members of the Board:

The Sierra Club endorses the Tentative Resolution to support the "No Drugs Down the Drain" Campaign for pharmaceutical medication in the San Diego Region. There is growing evidence that treated sewage discharged offshore in the California coastal waters contain pharmaceutical compounds that pose a threat to the aquatic life. For example, there are pharmaceuticals that contain hormone-disrupting compounds that are deforming the sex organs of marine life.<sup>1</sup> The Southern California Coastal Waters Research Project is currently engaged in a project to further examine the emerging contaminant effects on coastal fish.<sup>2</sup> The project includes researchers from UC San Diego, UC Riverside, California State University Long Beach, The Ocean Institute, Orange County Sanitation District, City of San Diego, Los Angeles Sanitation Districts, and the City of Oxnard.

The Sierra Club is concerned that these emerging contaminants in the pharmaceuticals and consumer products threaten aquatic life nation wide. Last year we formed a special task force with members from across the nation including the undersigned to prepare a fact sheet for the public on these contaminants. The fact sheet was released early this year<sup>3</sup>. A copy of the fact sheet is attached for your review.

We also support the Tentative Resolution because of the growing need to recycle our wastewater for non-potable and indirect potable reuse. Source control of the contaminants is very critical because it reduces the water treatment efforts.

We urge you to support the Tentative Resolution. It represents an important first step towards reducing these emerging contaminants to safeguard the quality of our waters.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward Kimura  
Water Issues

<sup>1</sup> Cone, Marla, Sewage Altering Fish, Study Reports, Nov. 14, 2005 Los Angeles Times  
<http://articles.latimes.com/2005/nov/14/local/me-fish14>

<sup>2</sup> SCCWRP Project: Emerging Contaminant Effects on Coastal Fish <http://www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=278>

<sup>3</sup> Sierra Club, CONSUMER PRODUCTS THREATEN AQUATIC LIFE: WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/toxics/factsheets/FS4.pdf>