

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Limits PCBs from Wastewater
to San Francisco Bay**

Oakland - The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board acted today to limit the amount of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) discharged from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants to San Francisco Bay. Its action also requires municipal and industrial dischargers to identify sources of PCBs and prevent their discharge to the sanitary sewer system, and establishes risk communication and management programs for PCBs. This action is part of a long-term plan to restore San Francisco Bay sport fisheries made unsafe to eat because of PCBs.

The Regional Water Board adopted the PCBs restoration plan in February 2008, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved it in March 2010. The PCBs restoration plan's other measures include controls to reduce PCBs in urban stormwater runoff and cleanup of contaminated bay sediments, measures that are already underway. The manufacture and sale of PCBs was banned in 1984, but PCBs remain in limited uses and in some older building materials, and continue to impact San Francisco Bay. These chemicals can interfere with hormonal processes and are suspected carcinogens.

For additional information, please visit

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agenda.shtml

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.