

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
OCTOBER 16, 2012**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON A SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON MONITORING CONSTITUENTS OF EMERGING CONCERN IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), in collaboration with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, provided funding to support a science advisory panel named the Constituents of Emerging Concern Ecosystems Panel (Panel). The Panel was charged with reviewing existing scientific literature on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) in aquatic ecosystems, determining the state of the current scientific knowledge regarding the risks that CECs in freshwater and marine water pose to human health and aquatic ecosystems, and providing recommendations on improving the understanding of CECs for the protection of public health and the environment. CECs encompass a wide array of substances, including pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, newly registered pesticides, industrial and agricultural products, fragrances, hormones, antibiotics and nanoparticles.

The Panel was initially convened in October 2009, through funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, to provide information and recommendations on CECs in marine water ecosystems. In June 2011, the State Water Board provided additional funding to expand the scope to include freshwater ecosystems. The Panel collaborated with stakeholders, who provided their perspectives of the water quality issues and additional information, during the development of the report. The Panel recommended a risk-based screening framework to identify CECs for monitoring and an adaptive phased monitoring approach to assess the presence of CECs and their potential risk to the environment.

The Panel identified an initial list of sixteen CECs to be monitored using the proposed adaptive phased monitoring approach. In addition, the Panel developed a monitoring design that would implement the monitoring of the initial list of CECs in various aquatic ecosystems.

The Panel submitted the final report "[Monitoring Strategies for Chemicals of Emerging Concern \(CECs\) in California's Aquatic Ecosystems](#)" (Panel Report) to the State Water Board on April 2012.

State Water Board staff reviewed the information in the report and prepared a [Staff Report](#) that summarizes the findings and provides options for implementing the Panel Report recommendations.

POLICY ISSUE

N/A – Informational item only.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A – Informational item only.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

N/A – Informational item only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A – Informational item only.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 4 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration.