

### OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II (PETERS)

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Energy & Water Committee voted to SUPPORT the legislation on September 5, 2019. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the legislation on September 10, 2019. The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT the legislation on September 26, 2019.

**RATIONALE:** The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II helps to further progress on the Pure Water Program which represents one of the region's leading priorities.

**STATUS:** The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act will be introduced by Congressman Scott Peters in the coming weeks.

#### SUMMARY

The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II enables the City of San Diego to continue the operation of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant without having to reapply for modified permits every five years.

#### INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

The City of San Diego and select local governments, in addition to the general business community with regard to water use.

#### SUPPORTERS

- Paul Dayton, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Ed Parnell, Ph.D., Associate Research Oceanographer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Surfrider Foundation
- San Diego Audubon Society
- Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- City of Poway
- City of Imperial Beach
- City of El Cajon
- City of Del Mar
- City of Coronado
- City of La Mesa
- City of Chula Vista (Mayor)
- City of Chula Vista (2 Councilmembers)
- Otay Water District
- Lemon Grove Sanitation District (board member)
- Biocom
- Building Industry Association of San Diego County (BIA)

#### OPPONENTS

None known.

- Industrial Environmental Association (IEA)
- Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #230

### **ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR**

- According to proponents, the bill is important to providing “creative, collaborative, and common-sense solutions to the serious threats of water scarcity and ocean pollution.”
- The bill provides a meaningful way for the City to focus on Pure Water without lessening standards for ocean discharges and water quality.

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**

This would allow for the circumvention of regulatory requirements.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

The City of San Diego currently owns and operates the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (Point Loma), which, after treatment of wastewater, discharges that water 4.5 miles out into the Pacific Ocean. Such processes for discharge are overseen by the Clean Water Act and the EPA which require the plant to treat the water further via what is known as “secondary treatment.” However, secondary treatment would require a significant upgrade to the Point Loma facility (estimated at nearly \$2 billion). Instead, the City of San Diego has been working toward an exemption or waiver to the requirement, and now has a secondary treatment equivalency permit granted by the EPA that spans a five year period. The most recent permit for Point Loma was granted by the EPA in 2017, and this bill would allow the City to not have to be subject to time-consuming and lengthy permitting processes and instead redirect those resources to Pure Water.