



Our Children's Earth Foundation | 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, CA 94105

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 11, 2005

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MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF INADEQUATELY TREATED SEWAGE DISCHARGED INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY ANNUALLY

Group Aims to Ensure Clean-up of Sewage Run-off

San Francisco, CA. — Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) filed a court petition to mandate that California's two water control boards issue overdue water permits to regulate and control dumping of sewage run-off into the San Francisco Bay, as required by the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The petition for a writ of mandate--a court order to a government agency--filed in the California Superior Court for the County of San Francisco against the California State Water Resources Control Board and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, alleges that the Regional Board has failed to issue a permit to East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) that would control this sewage dumping. The Regional Board was required to issue the permit two years ago.

That delay has resulted in the discharge of millions of gallons of inadequately treated sewage into San Francisco Bay each year. The discharge contains pollutants exceeding permissible levels under the CWA. The petition seeks a court order mandating that the boards renew EBMUD's permit, which include pollution limits, and ultimately, requiring EBMUD to reduce and phase out its current sewage dumping practice.

"This is simply unacceptable," said Tiffany Schauer, Executive Director of Our Children's Earth. "These water permits ensure that dirty, unsafe water is not dumped into our Bay. It is imperative that these permits be issued immediately to reduce and eventually phase out the dumping of this inadequately treated sewage runoff."

EBMUD collects and treats the domestic and industrial sewage from nine cities and communities in the East Bay area, serving a population of approximately 650,000. The CWA requires that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits be issued every five years. EBMUD's permit expired in January 2003, and although EBMUD did apply for a new

permit it was never issued by the Regional Board. EBMUD has three locations of wet weather overflow structures: one is near Berkeley Marina and two more are located in Oakland Harbor.

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