



# NEWS RELEASE

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Our Children's Earth Foundation

Contact: Jennifer Burcham, OCE 703-622-3593

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## ILLEGAL TOXIC DISCHARGES INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY MUST STOP, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SAYS

San Francisco, CA— Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) brought an action in federal court against Standard Iron and Metal Co. (Standard) this week under the U.S. Clean Water Act, for discharging polluted storm water runoff into storm drains that flow to San Francisco Bay.

The group alleges that during its normal course of operation, Standard releases harmful substances such as metals, oils, anti-freeze, and other toxic pollutants into storm drains near the San Francisco Bay and other receiving waters in violation of the requirements of its storm water permit under the Clean Water Act and the State of California's industrial storm water permit.

"This company's own storm water sampling tests show that its storm water discharges are consistently contaminated with high levels of pollutants and are running directly into a tributary of the San Francisco Bay," said Tiffany Schauer, executive director of Our Children's Earth. "This has been going on for years and it is simply unacceptable. These types of businesses need to clean up their act."

Scrap metal wastes in different stages of corrosion and decay may release a variety of harmful substances into the water, including heavy metals, fuel, oil, lubricants, PCBs, grease, lead acid, lead oxides, chlorinated solvents, asbestos, ethylene glycol, paint, and chemical residues.

The consensus among agencies and water quality specialists is that storm water pollution accounts for more than half of the total pollution entering the marine environment each year. This lawsuit seeks to stop or reduce the pollution discharges from Standard's facility and deter other metal recycling facilities from discharging pollutants, which would significantly improve water quality in San Francisco Bay.

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