



# NEWS RELEASE

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Our Children's Earth Foundation

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## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SEEKS TO STOP ILLEGAL TOXIC DISCHARGES INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY

San Francisco, CA— Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) today gave Standard Iron and Metal Co. (Standard) the requisite 60-day notice of its intent to sue Standard under the 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.

"These types of businesses, operating near our Bay, are being put on notice that Bay Area residents are not going to stand by idly and allow them to continue polluting our water," said Tiffany Schauer, executive director of Our Children's Earth. "Under the law these companies are required to self-monitor and make sure that they are not releasing toxins into the water and they are simply not doing it."

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. The proposed lawsuit would seek 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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