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CALIFORNIA ADOPTS NEW TOXICITY PROTECTIONS FOR RIVERS & WILDLIFE

December 1, 2020 (Sacramento, CA) – After nearly two decades of negotiations, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has adopted statewide Toxicity Provisions to improve the health of California’s rivers, lakes, and streams, and the wildlife that depend on California water.

In California, over three hundred waterways are listed as impaired for toxicity with detrimental impacts to the health of fish and wildlife that live in and along California’s waterways.

The Toxicity Provisions address previous inconsistencies in water quality permits and to detect and prevent ongoing toxic pollution that kills off larvae and insects that form the foundation of California’s food chain for endangered fish, such as salmon, and migratory birds that feed along California’s river corridors. The Toxicity Provisions are also designed to protect California’s waters from both known and unknown sources of toxic pollution, which is especially important as new contaminants of emerging concern – such as pharmaceuticals, household chemicals, urban pesticides, PFAS and PFOA chemicals – are used and enter our environment.

“Today’s action by the State Water Board is an important and long-needed step to protect the health of California’s waterways and improve the resilience of endangered fish and wildlife to climate change,” said Kaitlyn Kalua, Policy Manager of California Coastkeeper Alliance. “Though, our work isn’t done. The final provisions faced countless concessions over the years, leaving a large number of toxic pollution sources, such as stormwater and agricultural runoff, untouched by today’s decision.”

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ABOUT CALIFORNIA COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE - California Coastkeeper Alliance is a statewide voice for our waters. With the federal administration working against our environmental laws, CCKA defends and expands California’s protective legislation and strengthens the function of our State Water Board. We represent local Waterkeepers, empower communities towards a #TrashFree2030, and advocate with companies through the Blue Business Council. Together, we fight for swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waters for Californians today – and for future generations. California Coastkeeper Alliance is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit cacoastkeeper.org and follow us on Twitter [@CA_Waterkeepers](https://twitter.com/CA_Waterkeepers).