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**TRUMP EPA ANNOUNCES REWRITE TO CLEAN WATER RULE UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR CALIFORNIA'S RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER ACT (SENATE BILL 601, ALLEN)**

**March 12, 2025 (Sacramento, CA)** – Today, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) its plan to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rewrite the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS)—the waters protected by the federal Clean Water Act. EPA’s announcement comes less than a month after the Institute for Energy Research—a think tank that promotes the fossil fuel industry and sat on the Project 2025 Advisory Board—submitted a petition requesting the agency take this very action.

The WOTUS definition is crucial as it establishes the jurisdictional reach of the landmark, bipartisan Clean Water Act. The first Trump EPA tried to narrow the definition of “WOTUS” and the conservative-leaning Supreme Court picked up the baton in 2023, making a [decision](#) that greatly constricted waters that receive Clean Water Act protections. EPA’s latest decision to rewrite the WOTUS rule will only further restrict federal water quality protections.

“We knew this was coming,” says Sean Bothwell, Executive Director for California Coastkeeper Alliance. “That is why we have been working for the past two years to develop state legislation to protect California’s waters from these types of federal rollbacks.”

Now more than ever California needs to step up to protect its waters. Senator Ben Allen, along with California Coastkeeper Alliance and Defenders of Wildlife introduced the Right to Clean Water Act, SB 601, to safeguard California’s water systems by enshrining into state law previous federal protections offered by the federal Clean Water Act. The Right to Clean Water Act would strengthen state water quality laws so California’s protections will no longer ebb and flow with variable national politics.

“California must be responsible for protecting its waters,” says Sean Bothwell. “We can no longer rely upon the federal government to protect and provide clean and affordable water to Americans. SB 601 provides California the opportunity to enshrine our state values and ensure clean water for all Californians.”

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**ABOUT CALIFORNIA COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE** - California Coastkeeper Alliance represents Waterkeepers programs statewide as they fight for drinkable, swimmable, fishable waters for all Californians. CCKA defends and expands California’s protective legislation and strengthens the function of our State Water Board. For more information, visit [www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org) or @CA\_Waterkeepers on social media.