

CLEAN WATER

CLEAN WATER ACTION & CLEAN WATER FUND

California Sustainer News

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CRACKDOWN ON CONTAMINANTS: ROCKET FUEL JOINS ARSENIC AND MERCURY ON CLEAN WATER'S ACTION AGENDA

ARSENIC: NOT OVER YET!

In 2001, Clean Water Action fought hard to stop the EPA's rollback on the arsenic standard for drinking water. With the help of our members nationwide and the activities of many others in the environmental and public health movement, we succeeded in getting the Bush Administration to retain the Clinton-era standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb). As long time readers know, CWA has pushed for a much more protective standard of 2-3 ppb since arsenic is known to cause cancer in humans when ingested in drinking water at even these low levels. More than 90% of California's groundwater and a majority of surface waters tested exceed the 3 ppb level. CWA sponsored the successful SB463 (Perata) which assures that California will stay on track with adopting a standard for arsenic. Importantly, the bill also requires consumers to be notified annually of the health effects of arsenic when consumed at levels above the public health goal set by the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). We're hopeful that our strong coalition voice, combined with improvements in the cost and effectiveness of treatments, will lead to a much more stringent standard in California.

FIRST IN NATION BAN ON MERCURY PRODUCTS

Clean Water Action led a successful effort to pass SB633 (Sher) last year, making California the first state to ban mercury-containing thermometers, novelty items and other products. Mercury is a known neurotoxin at extremely low levels and is a public health risk when consumed in fish where it accumulates in muscle tissue. Improper disposal and discharge to waters is one of the pathways for mercury to contaminate fish (along with mining, energy production, and waste incineration). Clean Water Fund's *Preventing Harm* campaign seeks to educate parents, care providers, and physicians about actions that can be taken to reduce levels of environmental toxins like mercury. In addition, CWF's Healthy Bay project has produced a new report, *What Goes Up* (see story p.5), which quantifies exposure from airborne mercury sources. A similar inventory for other persistent toxins is being compiled for publication this summer.

SAY NO TO ROCKET FUEL IN DRINKING WATER

The aerospace industry and Department of Defense have been working for more than 30 years to keep perchlorate, the oxidizing component in rocket fuel, from being regulated as a drinking water contaminant. This toxicant prevents the uptake of iodide by the thyroid gland, thus suppressing thyroid function. Fetal and early childhood thyroid suppression leads to a host of neurodevelopmental effects, including mental retardation, deaf-mutism, and attention deficit disorder. CWA and CWF are making perchlorate our priority drinking water contaminant for action in 2002.

Perchlorate contamination is widespread throughout the US, due to haphazard (at best) and negligent disposal practices and can be expected around Superfund sites, as well as military and aeronautics facilities. Perchlorate production is a multimillion dollar business. Dangerous levels of perchlorate have contaminated groundwater in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara and Sonoma counties. Every Californian who consumes water from the Colorado River is also exposed to levels of perchlorate, due to the reckless disposal of perchlorate into the Las Vegas Wash. For the most part, the corporations behind perchlorate contamination have actively resisted cleanup and

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 2002 Legislative Agenda, Preventing Harm Program Expands, New CWF Report on Mercury, SF Happenings, Bay-Delta Update, We're Growing!

CALIFORNIA SUSTAINER NEWS

Clean Water Action (CWA) is a national citizens organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. CWA organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

Clean Water Fund (CWF), is a 501(c)3 organization which focuses on research and education to promote the public interest with a special emphasis on water issues. CWF and CWA collaborate on campaigns and share some staff and office space.

Sustainer News provides our most loyal members with an inside and in-depth view of our California based programs and campaigns.

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CLEAN WATER MAKES WAVES!

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund most frequently work at the grassroots level, helping impacted communities take action to win improvements in water quality, health protection and resource conservation. We must be getting heard because, over the last several months, we've been asked to participate more formally in statewide policy development. In response, we have accepted appointments to several advisory committees and task forces convened to move forward California's efforts to assure clean and safe water. We look forward to the opportunity to advance our twin goals of safeguarding public health and environmental resource protection in these forums.

Restoring the Bay-Delta ecosystem while improving the quality of Delta drinking water supplies has been a long-term Clean Water Action goal. The state-federal program charged with this mission, CALFED, has moved into implementation (see story p.7). California Director Marguerite Young has been appointed to the recently convened Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee and she is co-chairing the 17 member Drinking Water Quality Subcommittee. Charged with developing a comprehensive strategy for drinking water quality improvement, the subcommittee's membership includes experts and policy leaders in the fields of public health, environmental justice, consumer affairs, drinking water and wastewater, water use efficiency and recycling, source control and pollution prevention, watershed protection, health and resource economics, and treatment technology. In April the group adopted an integrated conceptual framework for improving drinking water quality from Delta sources through a combination of watershed and water management actions to improve source water quality, source water exchanges and treatment technology investments to reduce contaminants at the treatment plant. "My vision is that this committee's work can chart a proactive, ecosystem-friendly course for improving drinking water quality and at the same time help launch health protective innovations in the way we provide tap water for all Californians," said Ms. Young. The framework and other drinking water program information can be viewed online at <http://calfed.water.ca.gov/programs/DrinkingWater>.

While the ambitious CALFED program seeks mainly to improve drinking water quality drawn from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River system, the state's groundwater resources are also in need of serious attention. As chronicled in the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) 2001 report *California's Contaminated Groundwater: Who's minding the store?* groundwater is threatened by a host of contaminants including arsenic, hexavalent chromium, perchlorate, salinity, and the fuel additive MTBE. In addition, there is tremendous fragmentation between the agencies charged with protecting groundwater. In response to these findings, AB 599 (Liu) was enacted last year requiring the various responsible agencies to report to the Legislature by March 2003 with recommendations on how to implement a comprehensive statewide groundwater quality monitoring program. Marguerite Young and David Beckman of NRDC represent environmental interests on the 17-member Public Advisory Committee which will pair with an interagency task force (including the State Water Resources Control Board, US EPA, the Department of Health Services, Department of Water Resources, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control) to craft the program. More information and a schedule of public meetings can be found at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwphome/land/gama/webpages/ab599hom.htm>.

Continued on page 5

SAY NO TO ROCKET FUEL CONTINUED

liability for their actions. Worse, since much of the contamination is the result of government contracts, the taxpayer bears the burden for the lion's share of clean up costs!

California and the federal EPA are finally moving forward with the regulation of perchlorate in drinking water. Earlier this year, US EPA took a major step in the right direction by issuing a reference dose (a consumption level at which no effect from the contaminant is expected), which is the first step in setting a standard. This reference dose would result in a drinking water equivalent level (DWEL) no higher than 1 ppb (although this is below current detection limits). The 1 ppb DWEL has become a target of intense lobbying by perchlorate manufacturers, who have successfully lobbied in the past to weaken EPA's recommendations. A few weeks ago, a coalition of 42 groups from around the nation submitted comments to US EPA asking for an even more stringent reference dose, based on fetal and infant thyroid impacts that were not considered by EPA in the original analysis.

In California, disappointingly, the OEHHA issued a 6 ppb draft public health goal (PHG) in mid-March-- a level 6 times weaker than EPA's proposal. The PHG is the first step in setting an enforceable drinking water standard. Since the enforceable standard must be set as close as feasible to this level, it is critical that the PHG be truly protective of public health. On April 29, at an OEHHA public workshop, CA Director Marguerite Young, Dr. Amy Kyle, of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, and Renee Sharp of the Environmental Working Group urged OEHHA to reduce the public health goal in order to account for uncertainty related to long term low dose exposures, the impact of perchlorate in breast milk, and the higher ratio of water consumption in relation to body weight by infants. Ms. Sharp also presented written comments supported by 30 California health and environmental groups urging precaution.

In response to growing concern, Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund and others formed the Perchlorate Action Group, an ad hoc coalition of environmental, public health and community based organizations, to

address the widespread contamination of California's drinking water and risk to public health. The Perchlorate Action Group urges state and federal regulatory agencies and policy makers to:

- ◆Swiftly set a health protective, precautionary standard for perchlorate in drinking water that protects all Californians, including pregnant women, developing fetuses, infants and adults with thyroid sensitivities.
- ◆Provide Californians vulnerable to perchlorate contamination with a full disclosure of health risks associated with drinking perchlorate-contaminated water and the extent of contamination in their communities.
- ◆Implement an immediate prevention plan to protect further drinking water sources from contamination.
- ◆Mandate that polluters pay the full cost of cleanup of perchlorate contamination throughout the state.

Take Action: To get involved with the Perchlorate Action Group or for more information about this drinking water contaminant, contact Marguerite Young at 415-369-9160 x304 or myoung@cleanwater.org.

PREVENTING HARM EXPANDS

After a yearlong pilot project, Clean Water Fund's San Francisco office launched the *Preventing Harm* program in Bay Area communities in January. *Preventing Harm* is a campaign to educate communities about the links between early exposure to environmental toxins and developmental disabilities in children. Neurotoxic contaminants, such as mercury, lead, perchlorate, dioxins and pesticides, have been linked to developmental disabilities such as ADHD, learning and behavioral disabilities, mental retardation and autism. The *Preventing Harm* program highlights how exposure in utero and in early childhood to these chemicals can compromise child development, and encourages communities to take action to protect children from these toxins. The project especially seeks to target underserved communities of color, who are often most at risk from toxic contamination in their neighborhoods.

As the first step of CWF's campaign, the *Preventing Harm* workshop discusses toxic threats to child development and ways families can reduce their exposure to neurotoxins. The workshop includes a slideshow about mercury and pesticides and a hands-on discussion about household cleaning products that focuses on less-toxic alternatives to conventional products. Participants are encouraged to make changes on an individual and community level and



PREVENTING HARM CONTINUED

get involved in statewide policy debates and campaigns to win reductions in releases of these chemicals.

In the first few months of the program, CWF staff has reached nearly 100 parents, teachers and child care providers with *Preventing Harm* workshops. We have presented the workshop to parents at Head Start programs, Child Development Centers, prenatal classes at local health clinics and parenting classes in San Francisco and Oakland. With twenty workshops scheduled through late summer, *Preventing Harm* will empower hundreds of Bay Area residents with important information and opportunities for action. Follow-up efforts such as a thermometer exchange with Oakland Head Start, networking events, resource fairs and leadership trainings, will build a base of strong community leaders who promote a safer environment for children and a precautionary approach to the regulation of toxins, as well as broaden the visibility of the *Preventing Harm* campaign.

Clean Water Fund is also partnering with San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility (SFPSR) in order to expand our organizing to reach doctors, nurses and community-based health professionals such as doulas, lactation consultants and health educators. CWF and SFPSR will train a group of knowledgeable leaders in the health community who are able to identify potential environmental risks to their patients and clients and become potent advocates for the phase out of neurotoxic chemicals.

On a policy level, the *Preventing Harm* project champions a preventative approach to chemical regulation, based on the "Precautionary Principle." The Precautionary Principle asks for a "look before you leap" approach to decision-making that focuses on preventative policy. While current regulatory guidelines usually require cause-and-effect proof that a chemical is dangerous before eliminating it from our environment, a precautionary approach would require that a chemical be proven safe before it is released on the commercial market. Such a method would reduce the number of developmental and health problems associated with environmental toxins and shift the focus of regulation back to the best interest of public health, rather than the best interest of industry.

If you are interested in learning more about neurotoxins or scheduling a *Preventing Harm* workshop with a community group in your neighborhood, please call Jessica Leibler at (415) 369-9160 x306 or email jleibler@cleanwater.org

SAN FRANCISCO CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund have recently taken advantage of several excellent opportunities to unite our sustainable water management and water quality program goals with local projects and campaigns in San Francisco. Both have the potential to bring together new constituencies as well as the promise of developing equitable, sustainable watershed management. Through our involvement with these projects we hope to move San Francisco closer to achieving CWF and CWA's priorities: reducing people's exposure to polluted water while protecting source watersheds and the wildlife they support.

Last spring, Environmental Health Associate Lena Brook began working with a coalition of environmental and community groups to conduct a community-based watershed assessment of Yosemite Creek/Slough. The project will assess the water quality impacts and ecological conditions of the Slough, which is located in the southeastern portion of San Francisco adjacent to the Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard. We envision this as the first of a multi-phase project that will eventually result in a restoration of the watershed. One of the most significant

aspects of this project is that it will be conducted within an environmental justice context. Members of the Bayview-Hunters Point community will be engaged in all aspects of the project, from providing the historical framework to assisting with water quality sampling and bird census collecting, to leading educational workshops. We hope to restore the watershed as a community asset rather than a nuisance (at best) and health threat (at worst). This project is also particularly well timed in that it coincides with ongoing citywide water infrastructure planning, a process which could be substantially informed by the watershed assessment results. The project received funding from the CALFED Bay Delta Watershed program and is scheduled to begin this summer.

Clean Water Action has also been working to improve residential water conservation in San Francisco, in order to reduce the volume of water moving through the city's sewer system and to lessen water diversions from the Tuolumne River watershed. We are working with the City's Water Department as well as Supervisor Mark Leno

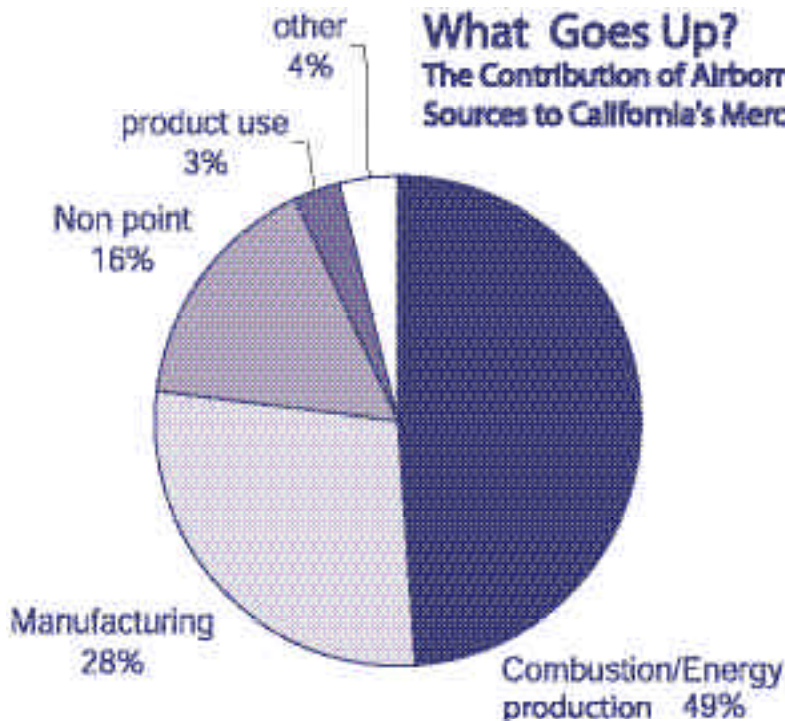
Continued on page 8

MAKING WAVES CONTINUED

If California is to manage its scarcest resource sustainably, finding ways to maximize the reuse of water will be critical. In recognition of this need, the state has set a goal to provide enough safe recycled water for the needs of up to 1.5 million Californians by 2007. SB 322 (Goldberg), enacted last year, sets up an expert task force appointed by the Governor and jointly led by the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan for achieving this goal. Marguerite Young joins Frances Spivy Weber, Mono Lake Committee Executive Director (and CWF's newest board member, see story p.8) and Henry Collins of San Diego as one of the three public members on the task force which also includes engineers, water and wastewater utilities, government agencies, and academics. The 2002 Water Recycling Task Force will discuss a range of subjects, including: ways to increase the use of recycled water in industrial and commercial applications; opportunities for increasing the use of recycled water in applications such as commercial laundries; and approaches to work closely with the CALFED program to maximize water conservation and water use efficiency strategies. The task force report is due to the legislature in July 2003.

Finally, Clean Water's Lena Brook continues to serve as an alternate on the statewide AB 982 Public Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG brings together representatives from environmental groups throughout California and permitted dischargers to assist the State Water Resources Control Board in devising strategies for implementing section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Historically overlooked, this section of the Clean Water Act provides a mechanism for cataloguing polluted waterways in California - known as the 303(d) list. Section 303(d) also provides a management strategy for restoring the beneficial uses of impaired waters, called TMDLs, that limit the loads of various pollutants. The ultimate goal of the group is to develop, through a consensus-based process, policies that will result in effective, transparent and timely water quality management strategies. The State Water Resources Control Board will hold public hearings on the most recently proposed 303(d) list on May 23-24 in Sacramento, and May 30th in Ontario. Strong public attendance and participation is needed to counter the strong turnout by polluters likely at the hearings. Please try to attend - thanks!

These advisory committees are important vehicles through which Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund have been able to advance the goals of our Clean and Safe Water Initiative -- protecting public health and the environment together.



Clean Water Fund has just released a report entitled *What Goes Up*, which is an inventory of airborne mercury sources in California. While runoff from mercury mines in the coastal range and mercury laden wastes from the gold mines of 150 years ago are a main source of legacy mercury contamination, air and water discharges from current processes account for a significant portion of the mercury problem in the state. Annually, more than 14,000 pounds of mercury are released into the state's air. The chart at right indicates the percentages from the four main source categories. Mercury is released into the airshed of every county in California. Five counties - Lassen, Sonoma, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Diego - experienced mercury air releases in excess of 1000 pounds according to data from the 1996 US EPA National Toxics Inventory.

For more information or to receive a copy of the study on CD-ROM, please contact Lena Brook at 415-369-9160 x302 or lbrook@cleanwater.org.

2002 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Clean Water Action is watching the California State Legislature for important opportunities to protect water resources, clean up pollution, and protect public health. CWA staff meets with legislators, organizes grassroots support, and testifies at hearings to stop harmful laws and support those that are protective. California's budget is extremely constrained this year, precluding the passage of most bills that will require new expenditures. Our legislative agenda presented below highlights some of the bills that we think should make it to the Governor's desk this year.

AB1972: DRINKING WATER RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Clean Water Action and the California League of Conservation Voters have teamed up to sponsor AB 1972 (Frommer) which would improve the health information provided to drinking water consumers. Under current law, public water systems are required to provide health information to consumers only when detections of contaminants exceed the drinking water standard. Unfortunately, these standards are not always set at the most health protective level, known as the public health goal (PHG), due to technological infeasibility or costs of treatment. In fact, standards for more than 2/3 of drinking water contaminants are set weaker than the public health goal. Some of the contaminants in this category — benzene, TCE, atrazine and vinyl chloride — are among the most toxic chemicals we know. AB 1972 would require that water systems include important information about health effects in the annual Consumer Confidence Report whenever detections of contaminants exceed the public health goal. It would also require the publication of health effects information in the Consumer Confidence Report in situations where a public health goal has been set but a maximum contaminant level has not been adopted, such as the case with perchlorate - the rocket fuel that pollutes the water of millions of Californians.

We believe that people have a right be informed of risks to their health and the health of their families. Health care providers also need this information to properly advise their patients. Additionally, some individuals may be more vulnerable to health effects associated with exposure to low concentrations of contaminants. Notifications created by AB1972 will provide consumers with information about the full range of health effects associated with a contaminant, including:

- The difference in a contaminant's public health risk at the PHG and drinking water standard level;
- Whether the contaminant is likely to cause cancer, birth defects, genetic damage, or acute toxicity;
- Whether the contaminant has a potential for endocrine disruption or synergistic effects when combined with other water contaminants;
- Whether the contaminant poses greater risks to subgroups in the general population.

Empowered with this information, individuals can make choices about how best to protect their health, such as installing additional filtration devices, advocating for more stringent drinking water standards and supporting measures to increase funding for drinking water protection.

AB 1972 passed the state Assembly on May 20 by a razor thin margin of one vote and is headed to the Senate. Help us counter the opposition of unenlightened water providers by urging your senator today to support this important bill.

WATER CONSERVATION

AB 2734 (Pavley) will promote statewide implementation of three water conservation tools - plumbing retrofits, high efficiency clothes washers and efficient urban landscaping - in order to increase the efficiency with which we use our existing water supplies, help meet the needs of a growing state, and decrease pressure on our fragile aquatic ecosystems. State and federal agencies have estimated that over the next 20 years, more than 500,000 acre-feet of water - enough to meet the needs of over 1 million California households - could be saved through effective urban water conservation measures. Despite widespread support from environmentalists, growing opposition from realtors, sod growers, and the farm bureau as well as the measure's price tag has stalled the bill until next year.

TOXICS REDUCTION

AB 498 (Chan) would create an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Manager position within California's Department of General Services. The state of California has substantial purchasing power, with almost \$3 billion in materials, goods and services spent annually. The Purchasing Manager would make sure that environmental impacts and the life cycle of products are considered in a comprehensive, coordinated manner when procurement decisions thus reducing the volume and toxicity of products and services purchased by the state.

AB 2682 (Chu)/SB 1994 (Soto): These companion bills would assess a \$0.30 fee per barrel of petroleum refined in California, generating \$200 million per year to be made

LEGISLATION CONTINUED

available to remedy the worst petroleum-related air and water problems in the state: MTBE clean-up and dirty fuel diesel engine retrofitting. The costs of these worthwhile but underfunded programs should be shifted from taxpayers (General Fund allocations) to polluters, those responsible for the damage to our water and air.

AB 2479 (Jackson) would require chemical facilities to assess their toxic risk from accidents and terrorist attacks and focus facilities on the development of inherent safety measures to prevent these types of incidents by reducing the use of dangerous chemicals.

PERCHLORATE STANDARDS

SB 1822 (Sher) would require the state to set a public health goal and drinking water standard for perchlorate by mid 2003. Perchlorate, the oxidizing component in rocket fuel, contaminates the drinking water of 17 million Californians. While CWA hopes that the state moves more swiftly in protecting the public from this poison (see story p.1), SB 1822 gets our support because it will ensure that there are no more delays.

CLEAN WATER HELPS DERAIL POLLUTER LOOPHOLE EXTENSION

AB 2226 (Salinas) would have extended the regulatory loophole that has exempted agricultural pollution discharges to water from regulation. Since 1982, agri-businesses and select other industries in the Central Valley have been exempt from the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the state's clean water law. Because irrigation return flows and farm runoff are also exempt from the federal Clean Water Act, discharges from Central Valley agricultural lands have been virtually unregulated for two decades. Thus agricultural discharges are almost entirely unregulated from a water quality perspective, but are the largest source of pollution for many of the state's waterways.

In 1999, the legislature wisely amended the water code to require that all waivers, including one enjoyed by agriculture in the Central Valley, be reconsidered by January 1, 2003. The Salinas bill, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, sought to extend this deadline. Environmentalists, led by Waterkeepers Northern California, united to defeat this measure when it was heard in the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials in April. However, we will remain on guard as a legislative loophole may allow this bill to re-emerge later in the session.

SHOWDOWN IN CONGRESS LIKELY ON BAY DELTA BILLS

As reported in the last Sustainer News, California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have introduced legislation (S.1768) to authorize ongoing federal support for the Bay Delta Restoration program known as CALFED. S.1768 does a good job of implementing the provisions of the plan agreed to in 2000, balancing ecosystem, water quality and supply reliability needs. Clean Water Action and most of the state's environmental groups have lined up in support of this reasonable approach. The bill will be heard in committee this month, and could proceed to the Senate floor by August.

On the House side, Ken Calvert (R- Riverside) continues to push H.R.3208. This legislation would undermine ecosystem restoration, while increasing the likelihood of further publicly-subsidized dam construction to benefit a few large corporate farms on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, at the expense of fish and drinking water quality. Ellen Tauscher (D-Walnut Creek) and Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk) have teamed up to introduce a House version of S.1768. George Miller (D-Martinez) has offered another more environment friendly bill. While these greener bills are unlikely to be considered by the full House, they could leverage some positive amendments in H.R.3208, though it's unlikely that Clean Water will support Calvert's legislation. A floor vote is predicted in late May.

Letters thanking and urging their continued leadership should be sent to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and House members Ellen Tauscher, Grace Napolitano, and George Miller. Write your own House member urging a NO vote on H.R. 3208!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

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Honorable _____

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CALIFORNIA SUSTAINER NEWS



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WE'RE GROWING!

California's Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund ranks are swelling with some recent additions our staff and board.

We feel very fortunate to have recruited Jessica Leibler to come on board as our Community Health Organizer. Jessica is responsible for educating activists and consumers on environmental health, pollution prevention, and drinking water quality issues. In addition, she works with communities throughout California to develop local leaders, provide leadership training, and conduct policy analysis and research. Prior to joining Clean Water Fund, Ms. Leibler coordinated and led an urban ecology summer program for middle school students in West Philadelphia and created an oral history project to record the gardening expertise of the garden elders. Ms. Leibler recently graduated with a political science degree from Williams College in Massachusetts.

In March, we realized a long time goal in hiring Lena

Brook as our Environmental Health Associate. Lena had been consulting for Clean Water for more than a year on our *Healthy Bay* and *Preventing Harm* projects. She holds a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Phone canvasser Marco De La Vega has recently moved into a full time leadership position with our phone canvass. Vanessa Puchi, one of our phone canvassers, has started a three month program internship. We will also welcome summer interns Rachel Stoddard and Lusine Hakobyan in late May.

Last but not least, California Advisory Committee member Frances Spivy Weber has just been elected to the national board of Clean Water Fund. Frances is the Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee. We love Fran's spirit of collaboration, positive energy, and innovative thinking. She'll be great addition to our Board!

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS CONTINUED

to revise the water conservation ordinance to require all toilets within the city to be replaced with ultra-low flow models within 10 years. The ordinance also would require all old toilets be crushed and recycled (for road building material and other products) to prevent reuse of old models and to reduce solid waste. The replacement of toilets would be achieved through partnerships with the Water Department and various community outreach organizations. Next on the horizon we hope to pursue comparable measures for the city's hotels, hospitals, government buildings, and other such businesses.

Finally, on May 1, California Director Marguerite Young joined members of the Environmental Water Caucus in initiating a dialogue with new San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) director Pat Martel, to encourage the Bay Area's largest water agency to become a leader in promoting regional cooperation in improving water use efficiency, water quality and ecosystem health. While it is early in the process, we are hopeful that this dialogue is a harbinger of more enlightened management at the PUC than has recently been the case.