

SCAP

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS



February 26, 2020

Dr. John Budroe
Chief, Air Toxicology and Risk Assessment Section
Air and Site Assessment and Climate Indicators Branch
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010, MS-12B
Sacramento, California 95812-4010
Submitted electronically through <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>

Dear Dr. Budroe:

Re: Continuation of Discussion of the Chemical Substances List in Appendix A of the AB 2588 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Emission Inventory Criteria and Guidelines Regulation

The Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Revisions to the AB 2588 Chemical Substances List. SCAP represents 83 public agencies that provide essential water supply and wastewater treatment to nearly 19 million people in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. SCAP’s wastewater members provide environmentally sound, cost-effective management of more than two billion gallons of wastewater each day and, in the process, convert wastes into resources such as recycled water and biogas. Our members provide an essential public service by operating wastewater treatment plants for the sole purpose of safely and reliably managing society’s sewage.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns regarding how the new Chemical Substances List may be used by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for regulatory emissions reporting before unit risk factors are established by OEHHA. It is our understanding that CARB intends to estimate emission factors for the chemicals listed in Appendix A-1 by the end of 2020. Pursuant to CARB’s proposed amendments to the Criteria Pollutant and Toxics Emissions Reporting (CTR), our members and most permitted facilities in California will be required to report estimated emissions for the entire Appendix A-1 list. This is extremely troubling because most of these compounds cannot be quantified by emissions source testing at this time.

Our members strive to be good stewards of the environment, so we are troubled that estimated emissions of hundreds of new compounds would be reported to the public before OEHHA’s

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Scientific Review Panel has had an opportunity to assess their carcinogenicity. We believe that the proposed premature reporting would be akin to yelling fire in a crowded theater.

Due to these concerns, SCAP respectfully requests that the Scientific Review Panel clarify that the compounds included in the Proposed Revisions to the AB 2588 Chemical Substances List have not been assessed for carcinogenicity. Therefore, it would be premature for regulatory agencies to calculate prioritization scores or to require health risk assessments to include these substances until the Scientific Review Panel has completed its evaluation. We also recommend that OEHHA work with CARB to establish a hierarchy of compounds to be evaluated, where the potentially most toxic compounds are assessed as soon as feasible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on Proposed Revisions to the AB 2588 Chemical Substances List. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Rothbart of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, SCAP Air Quality Committee Chair, should you have any questions regarding this transmittal at (562) 908-4288, extension 2412 or drothbart@lacsds.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Jepsen, Executive Director

cc: Mr. Greg Kester, California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Mr. Ray Arthur, Central Valley Clean Water Association
Mr. Randy Schmidt, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies