



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2758 (O'Donnell)—Southern Los Angeles Ocean Chemical Waste Community Oversight Council

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support Assembly Bill 2758. This bill proposes to establish the Southern Los Angeles Ocean Chemical Waste Community Oversight Council (Council) under the California Environmental Protection Agency to oversee the study and mitigation of toxic waste at the dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) dumpsites off the California coast in the San Pedro Basin.

A recent investigation estimates that nearly half a million barrels of toxic waste from DDT could be present in the waterway between Long Beach and Catalina Island. DDT is a toxic pesticide that was banned due to its environmental impacts. The purpose of establishing the Council is to consider impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, Indigenous culture, and public health, and the technical and financial feasibility of proposed mitigation efforts.

Mitigating the damage from chemical waste exposure will be an effort that will require coordination from various agencies. In order to perform this necessary work, various institutions require a structure to collaborate and cooperate in a way that allows for public transparency and input. AB 2758 proposes to provide this by establishing the Council.

As Long Beach has a thriving coastal economy, it is important that we support efforts to preserve our region's natural resources and wildlife. For this and other health reasons, on February 1, 2022, the Long Beach City Council unanimously voted to adopt a resolution to take all measures necessary to prevent further harm from the DDT waste dumped in these waters.

Given these reasons, the City supports AB 2758.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District

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