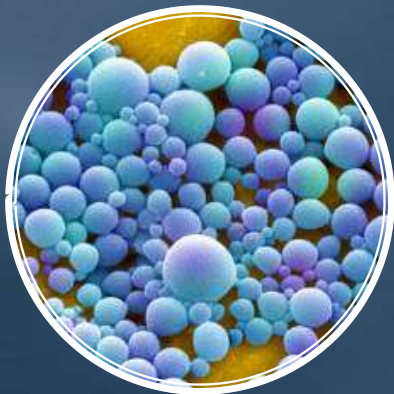




Co-sponsor Legislation for a Constituents  
of Emerging Concern Program at the  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Communications and Legislation Committee  
Item #8-4  
October 7, 2019

# Proposed Action

- Seek authorization to co-sponsor legislation to create a program at the State Water Resources Control Board to identify and evaluate Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in drinking water sources



# Background on CECs

- Diverse group of synthetic and naturally occurring chemicals and some microorganisms
- No drinking water standards for CECs
- Limited information available on occurrence and health effects



# Drinking Water Regulatory Process

## Universe of CECs in Drinking Water



Contaminant Candidate List/  
Unregulated Contaminant  
Monitoring Rule

Regulatory  
Determination

Do not  
regulate

Drinking Water  
Standard

Legislative  
Mandate



# Examples of CEC Legislative Mandates

- PFAS: AB 756 (D- Garcia; 2019)
  - Establishes notification requirements unique from other constituents
- Microplastics: SB 1422 (D- Portantino; 2018)
  - Requires monitoring and public disclosure without standardized methods or health effects information

*Legislative mandates bypass the scientific, data-driven regulatory process.*

# Proposed State Legislation

Establish and maintain a statewide CECs program

- Establish a Science Advisory Panel
- Review existing data and assess health impacts
- Prioritize CECs in drinking water sources
- Develop a risk-based screening program
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder engagement

# Benefits of the Program

- Science-based systematic process to evaluate CECs
  - Focuses on most relevant CECs specific to California
  - Provides scientific basis for informed policy decisions
  - Increases coordination between water sector partners
- Basis for future CEC monitoring strategies and risk communication

# Board Options

- Option #1

- Authorize the General Manager to co-sponsor legislation to create a program at the State Water Resources Control Board to identify and evaluate drinking water quality constituents of emerging concern

- Option #2

- Do not authorize the General Manager to co-sponsor legislation to create a CECs program at the State Water Resources Control Board



# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

