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Ocean Protection Council and Emerging Contaminants

CEC Ecosystems Panel Meeting 1

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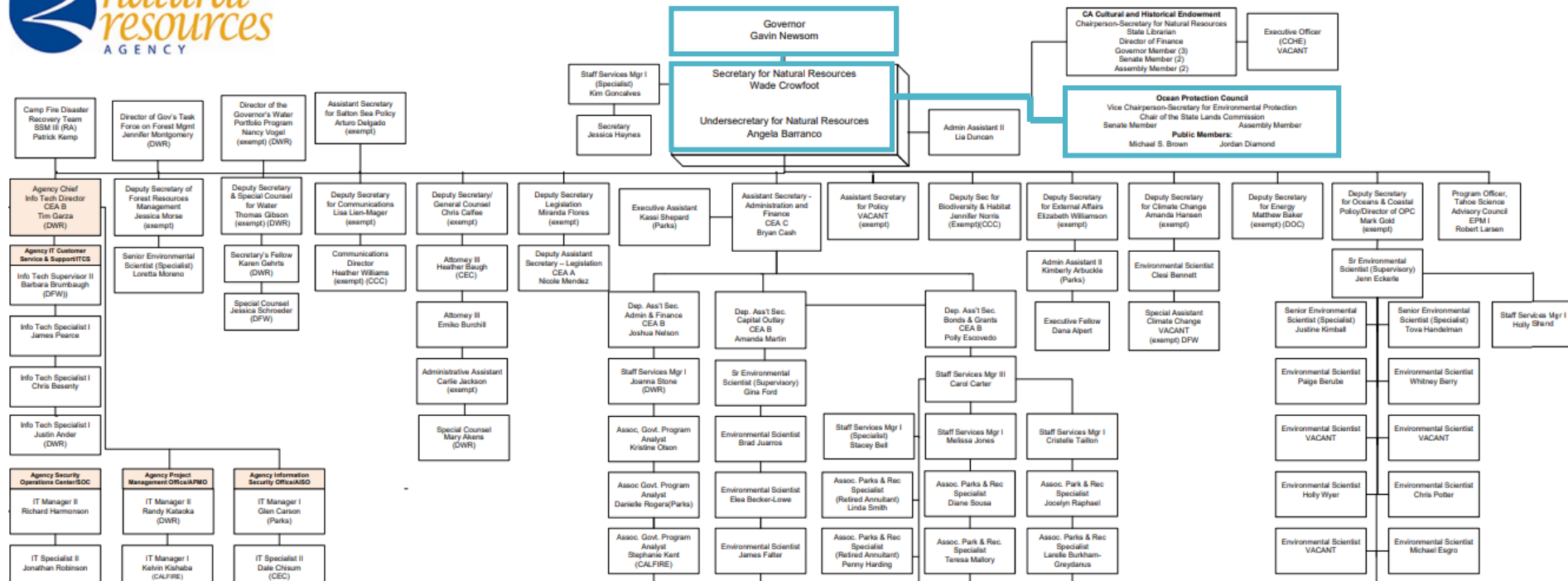
October 12, 2020

Ocean Protection Council

- What we do:
 - Recommend and implement policy
 - Coordinate among state agencies
 - Seek and leverage funding for innovative projects
 - Inform government with the best available science



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Looking back to the 2009 Recycled Water Policy

1. Policy stated there would be annual monitoring of CECs
2. Blue Ribbon Task Force funded to provide state of the science on CECs including impacts to human health and the environment
3. Task Force recommendations would be considered to ensure recycled water was not causing or augmenting environmental or public health problems caused by CECs
4. 11 years later – lots of progress on CEC bioassay analytical methods, but standardized monitoring has still not occurred.

CECs since 2009

- Permit Monitoring focuses on 126 priority pollutants which haven't changed in decades despite the fact that thousands of new chemicals come to market annually.
- Examples – Brominated and organophosphate flame retardants – PFOS and PFOA. 1,4 dioxane, Perchlorate, estradiols and other endocrine disruptors, numerous pesticides, pharmaceuticals, personal care products
- EPA Contaminant Candidate List 4 has 97 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbial contaminants

Recommendations

- California needs a standardized approach to monitoring CECs for recycled water use – use as drinking water (direct potable reuse as a priority), and in discharges to fresh and marine receiving waters.
- Consumer confidence is key. Monitor a larger list of CECs for 3 years and then reduce the list based on monitoring results.
- Develop a better understanding of the public health and environmental risks of various CECs. Lots of pharmaceuticals and pesticides to keep up with.
- Bigger than just recycled water – stormwater and wastewater discharges. Ex: Diazinon and then pyrethroids and permethrin.

OPC & Emerging Contaminants

- A relatively new area of focus for OPC
- Goal: develop effective systems for the State to manage emerging contaminants and eliminate those that post a threat to human health and the environment.



OPC Funding & CECs

- OPC Funding:
 - Emerging contaminants in the Southern California Bight
 - Assesses the bioscreening and nontargeted analyses tools as well as occurrence and bioactivity.
 - Nontargeted analyses in progress



OPC work on Microplastics

- SB 1263 requirement - Develop a statewide microplastics strategy by end of 2021
- Microplastics work is a separate effort for OPC



OPC's Panel Goals

- Guidance that leads to near-term action, particularly on prioritizing sources and pathways
- Better incorporation of data-poor constituents into the State's framework for management
- The top two critical research gaps
- How can state agencies better manage classes of CECs in the environment?



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Thank you