



## PRESS RELEASE

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### STATE LAWMAKERS MOVE CRUISE SHIP DUMPING BILLS

#### "CLEAN COAST" LEGISLATION WILL STOP SEWAGE AND GRAYWATER DISCHARGES

**San Francisco** - Two state cruise ship pollution bills sponsored by Bluewater Network were passed by the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee yesterday. The bills, recently introduced by Assemblymembers Joseph Simitian (D-Palo Alto) **(AB 2672)** and George Nakano (D-Torrance) **(AB 2093)**, seek to prevent cruise ships from dumping sewage and polluted wastewater in California waters. Both bills require reporting of discharges and penalties up to \$25,000 per day for violations of the no-discharge policies or failure to report.

"More cruise ships may be welcome in California's ports, but discharges of sewage and graywater are not," said Teri Shore of Bluewater Network. "The good news is that cruise ships don't need to use our coastline as a dumping ground. These bills will make sure they won't."

These bills are needed because cruise ship traffic has escalated by 50 percent in the state during the last two years, and continued growth in the state is projected. However, under existing law, cruise ships are allowed to dump millions of gallons of polluted wastewater into our waters every day. "Graywater," wastewater from showers, sinks, laundry and kitchens, has proven to be as polluted as sewage, but can be legally dumped anywhere, including in port. The dumping of treated sewage is also sanctioned under existing law, despite the fact that recent sampling of cruise ship sewage in Alaska demonstrated the near universal failure of cruise ship sewage treatment systems to meet federal standards.

Furthermore, the cruise industry has a legacy of polluting our seas. From 1993 to 2003, cruise ships committed more than 300 acts of dumping oil, garbage, hazardous waste, sewage and graywater, violating air pollution laws, inflicting damage to coral reefs, and falsifying environmental records, paying more than \$80 million in fines and restitution. Fifty-five of these in

