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June 25 , 2004

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## **CA CRUISE SHIP DUMPING BAN WOULD SET NEW U.S. STANDARD Discharges from cruise ship showers, sinks and galleys to be prohibited**

Sacramento, CA – A cruise ship pollution ban sponsored by Bluewater Network would set a new national standard prohibiting the discharge of graywater from showers, sinks and galleys into state waters. Currently graywater is unregulated and can be discharged anywhere, including ports and harbors.

The legislation, authored by Assemblymember George Nakano (D-Torrance) (**AB 2093**) will prevent cruise ships from dumping dirty graywater along the California coast. The bill also requires reporting of discharges and penalties up to \$25,000 per day for violations of the no-discharge policy or failure to report.

The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee early this week, and is expected to move out of the Senate and to the Governor's desk without opposition. The cruise industry does not oppose the bill.

"No discharge is the best policy when it comes to cruise ships," said Teri Shore of Bluewater Network. "We're glad that the cruise lines are showing environmental concern by not opposing this ban."

Cruise ship traffic has escalated by 50 percent in the state during the last two years. In 2004, 44 cruise ships will make nearly 800 calls at Californian ports. Cruise ships are equipped with holding tanks that can hold all wastewater long enough to dump outside state waters. Environmental groups, the Attorney General's office and the Coastal Commission support the bill because of the threats to coastal waters from cruise ship dumping.

Cruise ships are like floating cities that carry as many as 5,000 passengers and crew. On a typical one-week voyage, each ship generates 50 tons of garbage, more than 200,000 gallons of sewage and 1 million gallons of graywater from sinks, showers and kitchens. All of it ends up in the ocean, some treated, some not.

Graywater has been found to contain as much fecal matter as sewage as well as harmful metals, nutrients, and other pollutants. Cruise lines typically do not treat graywater, but discharge it overboard. When treated, it is typically first mixed with sewage. The mixture is not covered by this ban.

**AB 2093** (Nakano) would prohibit cruise ships from discharging graywater from kitchens, laundries and showers into state waters.

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