



A division of Friends of the Earth

October 24, 2005

Contact: Teri Shore,
415-544-0790, ext. 20

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR SIGNS SHIP DUMPING AND TRASH BURNING BAN

Sacramento, CA -- California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has banned large ocean-going ships from dumping wastewater or burning trash in California waters by signing Senate Bill 771 – the first law in the nation to ban large ship discharges and incineration in coastal waters.

Sponsored by Bluewater Network – a division of Friends of the Earth – and authored by Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), SB 771 extends the existing bans on cruise ship wastewater discharges and incineration to all commercial ocean-going vessels including container and cargo ships that call on California ports. Violators would be subject to fines of up to \$25,000 per violation per day.

"This bill is a win-win because it allows shippers to show their green credentials while protecting California's biggest natural and economic powerhouse: the coast," said Senator Joe Simitian. "We're thrilled that the shipping industry has partnered with us to make the bill work."

"The Governor has put an end to the old ways of dumping overboard in California," said Teri Shore, Clean Vessels Campaign Director of Bluewater Network. "Even better news is that our state's biggest shipping companies support this no-discharge law."

The discharge ban would prohibit ships from dumping the following into state waters:

- Sewage (treated and untreated)
- Oily bilge water
- Hazardous wastes
- Sewage Sludge
- Graywater

This legislation is needed because under federal law ships can legally dump most wastewater except raw sewage directly into state waters and harbors. In 2003 alone, about 1,400 commercial ocean-going vessels made 9,558 calls on California's ports. Each vessel typically carries about 24 crew and spends one to four days in port and state waters. Based on existing traffic, these ships generate: 1.5 million gallons per year of sewage and 9.3 million gallons per year of graywater.

Instead of discharging into state waters, container, cargo and tanker ships can hold wastes and either discharge out to sea or into shoreside facilities where available. Ships not equipped with holding tanks will be exempted until the state surveys the fleet to determine the number and size of ships that cannot comply and considers next steps to eliminate those discharges.

###