Message

From: Glenn, William [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9F7C03E151E475D9A656C21FD6FE4BB-WGLENN]
Sent: 9/26/2019 2:58:14 PM
To: PerezSullivan, Margot [PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov]; DIAZ, ALEJANDRO [Diaz.Alejandro@epa.gov]; Adamic, Denise [Adamic.Denise@epa.gov]; Calvino, Maria Soledad [Calvino.Maria@epa.gov]
CC: Maier, Brent [Maier.Brent@epa.gov]; Gill, Sonam [Gill.Sonam@epa.gov]; Amato, Paul [Amato.Paul@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: KQED Follow Up

Hi all,

As with the previous letter, most media inquiries are going directly to HQ on this. Any that come to our office can be forwarded to press@epa.gov if they don't already include HQ, as in the case below.

Thanks!

Bill

_____

Bill Glenn
Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA, Pacific Southwest
glenn.william@epa.gov / (415) 947-4254

From: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:47 AM
To: Ted Goldberg <tgoldberg@KQED.org>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Glenn, William <Glenn.William@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: KQED Follow Up

Here you are.

From: EPA Press Office <press@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:30 AM
Subject: EPA Administrator Wheeler calls out California's Environmental Protection Failure

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

EPA Administrator Wheeler calls out California's Environmental Protection Failure

State's homelessness crisis threatens human health and the environment

WASHINGTON (Sept. 26, 2019) — Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler sent a letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom raising several issues with the state's failure to protect Californians from degraded water, outlining deficiencies that have led to significant public health concerns in California and the steps the state must take to address them.

"California needs to fulfill its obligation to protect its water bodies and, more importantly, public health, and it should take this letter as notice that EPA is going to insist that it meets its environmental obligations," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. "If California does not step up to its delegated responsibilities, then EPA will be forced to take action."

For years, California has pushed policies that have resulted in a homelessness crisis that now threatens human health and the environment, with potential water quality impacts from pathogens and other contaminants from untreated human waste entering nearby waters. California has been responsible for implementing the water discharge permitting program under the Clean Water Act since 1973; however, the state's recent lack of urgency addressing serious issues in San Francisco resulting from lack of proper oversight and enforcement is concerning. This, among other issues identified in the administrator's letter, is a failure to properly implement federal programs and has resulted in the subsequent need for more direct EPA oversight to ensure human health and environmental protection.

Administrator Wheeler also raised concerns about the state's years long approval of the discharges of over 1 billion gallons per year of combined sewage and stormwater into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Despite California having abundant financial resources - which includes a significant tax base and EPA providing over $1 billion in federal grants and a $699 million loan through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act - San Francisco has not come into compliance with federal clean water standards and must still invest billions of additional dollars to modernize its sewer system.

California has 30 days to provide a written response to EPA outlining in detail how it intends to address the concerns and deficiencies identified in the letter.

To read the full letter, click here.

For more information about EPA's clean water programs, click here.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

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From: Ted Goldberg <tgoldberg@KQED.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Glenn, William <Glenn.William@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: KQED Follow Up

It looks like the EPA sent a letter on this issue to California today.
Can you pass that letter to me?

From: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 10:05 AM
To: Ted Goldberg <tgoldberg@KQED.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Glenn, William <Glenn.William@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: KQED Follow Up

Hi Ted,

Nothing additional to share at this time.

On Sep 23, 2019, at 12:47 PM, Ted Goldberg <tgoldberg@kqed.org> wrote:

Ernesta:

My name is Ted Goldberg and I'm an editor at KQED in San Francisco.

Hope you're well.

My colleague, Peter Jon Shuler, reached out to you last week about President Trump's remarks that the EPA will be "putting out a notice" of violations in San Francisco related to the city's homeless problem.

Your response – that EPA does not comment on potential enforcement actions – attributing an EPA spokesperson – was included in our reporting. Thank you for your response.

We also reached out to local and state regulators and city officials and they all said they couldn't find evidence that needles and other waste from San Francisco's homeless population were flowing through storm drains into the ocean. These included agencies that are responsible for investigating these types of things.

And, often EPA will coordinate with these agencies when tracking environmental problems. In this case that didn't happen.

Without commenting on any potential enforcement action, can you pass along any information related to EPA's scrutiny of this issue in general?

And, given that the president discussed a potential enforcement action in this case, it appears that the agency's rules on discussing such cases were broken, which would indicate that you can indeed discuss them.

Can you shed any light on all of this?

Can you confirm that there is no investigation and that EPA does not plan on issuing a notice of violation to San Francisco for this?

I'm working on a 5pm PST deadline.

Thanks,

Ted
KQED
415-553-8450