CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

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March 10, 2021 Via Email

Dr. Deborah Jordan, Deputy Regional Administrator
Region 9, Pacific Southwest Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: Assessment of Offshore DDT Dumping

Dear Dr. Jordan,

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is troubled by the revelations reported in the Los Angeles Times regarding the true extent of DDT dumping off the coast of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

This issue has been of high interest to our community for decades. In fact, a recent survey of Rancho Palos Verdes residents found that the impacts of chemical dumping in our coastal waters was the second most concerning local environmental issue among respondents after ocean and beach pollution. Health of marine life was ranked the fourth most concerning local environmental issue.

The protection of our natural resources is a tenet of the City's founding values. But we cannot determine whether DDT remediation efforts have been effective if we do not know the full extent of the harm done to our ecosystem.

We are calling on federal and state agencies, including the EPA, to conduct an assessment of how many barrels of DDT-laced waste are on the seafloor, where they are located and leaking, how much the DDT has spread and accumulated, and what can be done to contain the leaking and clean up contamination. Increased monitoring of sediment and wildlife is key to understanding the long-term damage of this activity on our environment. Additionally, the City requests a comprehensive update on the status and success of long-term remediation efforts at the Palos Verdes Superfund site, which is located just off the coast of Rancho Palos Verdes.

We support efforts to keep this important issue on the forefront and are eager to learn what actions can be taken to ensure it is being adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

Eric Alegria
Mayor