



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2214 without my signature.

This bill requires the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to lead an interagency coordination group to recommend statutory changes and adopt a work plan to implement recommendations from the 2022 Statewide Microplastics Strategy.

In 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1263, requiring the OPC to develop a Statewide Microplastics Strategy. The resulting Strategy, developed by the OPC in coordination with state agencies and external partners, provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to identify early actions California can take to address microplastic pollution and advance existing microplastic research.

To date, the OPC has invested \$7 million in funding for plastic pollution projects, including \$3 million in funding specifically for microplastics. Recently funded projects are focused on examining the efficacy of microplastic removal from wastewater treatment plants; the use of low-impact development projects such as rain gardens and infiltration trenches; identifying sources and pathways of microplastics to stormwater; understanding ecological sensitivity to microplastics; and standardizing microplastic monitoring methods.

As scientific understanding advances, the OPC, alongside state agency partners, will evaluate the findings and lessons learned to provide policy recommendations to the Legislature by December 2025, per existing law. I believe this bill and the requirement for agencies to build out work plans ahead of the publishing of policy recommendations is premature.



For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to overlapping lines and a horizontal line drawn through it.

Gavin Newsom