

Statement of Lena Brook, Clean Water Action

My name is Lena Brook and I am with Clean Water Action, a non-profit organization that works to prevent pollution and protect water resources. I am also speaking today on behalf of Health Care Without Harm and the California Public Interest Research Group.

We believe that the dental industry has not taken responsibility for the toxic Mercury that they release into our waters every day. Waste from dental offices and from people with mercury fillings gets into our sewer systems and eventually into the waters that we fish. Eating fish contaminated with Mercury, a potent neurotoxin, has been proven to affect brain development in children. In fact, according to recent estimates by the Centers for Disease Control, one in ten women of childbearing age are now at risk of having children with neurological defects due to Mercury exposure.

San Francisco Bay as well many of the State's other waters are so contaminated with Mercury that people are warned to limit their consumption of the fish they catch there. Mercury harms animals and ecosystems, degrades our food and damages our children.

We strongly advocate that people be informed about the environmental and health consequences of Mercury bioaccumulating in the environment and entering the food chain. Clean Water Action is calling upon dentists to stop filling our bodies and bays with toxic Mercury and to give patients a choice.

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