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October 9, 2019

The Honorable Charles Sheehan  
Acting Inspector General  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Inspector General Sheehan:

Thank you for the crucial work of the Inspector General to provide independent oversight and accountability within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We write to add our voices to the important request made by California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris for an investigation into whether our nation's water quality laws are being properly enforced and if there has been irregular interference by Administration officials to single out the City and County of San Francisco and the State of California.

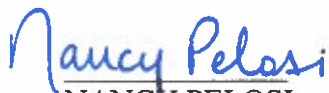
As the Senators noted, San Francisco works closely and productively with the Regional EPA office, State of California, and the Regional Water Quality Board on the permitting process for discharge plans. However, shortly after the President made offensive and inaccurate claims that waste and used needles from people experiencing homelessness are being dumped into the Pacific Ocean, Administrator Wheeler wrote the Governor alleging water quality violations contradicted by his own agency's findings, which was followed by a notice of violation to San Francisco.


This action raises serious questions about the possibility of an abuse of enforcement authority, not supported by the facts, singling out those who do not bend to the Administration's anti-environmental policies to serve their special interest agenda. We urge you to review the critical questions submitted by our Senators and swiftly open an investigation.

San Francisco and California are proud to be leaders in bold, innovative solutions to protect our planet and our future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and your work to ensure that EPA's vital task of enforcing our nation's water quality laws are properly conducted.

best regards,

  
NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House

  
JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress