

# Ocean Day 2022

## Microplastics: California's Big *Little* Problem

Mr. Ben Allen  
California State Senator  
<https://sd26.senate.ca.gov/>



California State Senator Ben Allen was elected in 2014 (and reelected in 2018) to represent the 26th Senate District covering the Westside, Hollywood, and coastal South Bay communities of Los Angeles County. Ben chairs the Senate's Environmental Quality Committee and co-chairs the Legislature's Environmental Caucus, is a member of the Legislative Jewish Caucus, chairs the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts, and the Senate Select Committee on Aerospace and Defense. As a legislative leader in environmental protection efforts, Ben continues to pursue ambitious policies that address the plastics pollution crisis.

Ben has a Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude in History from Harvard University, a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Cambridge, and a Juris Doctor degree from UC Berkeley. He and his wife Melanie, an attorney, have a little son, Ezra.

Dr. Scott Coffin  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
<https://calepa.ca.gov/>



Dr. Scott Coffin is the subject-matter expert for microplastics at the California Environmental Protection Agency and leads the agency's efforts to monitor and manage microplastics pollution in drinking water and the environment. Dr. Coffin recently led several international working groups to standardize monitoring methodologies for microplastics and develop risk-based thresholds for humans and aquatic ecosystems. Dr. Coffin is also a review editor for several microplastics-related research topics with the *Frontiers in Water* journal. Dr. Coffin has been researching microplastics' effects on aquatic organisms and humans since 2014, starting with his graduate research in environmental toxicology at the University of California, Riverside.

Dr. Eunha Hoh  
San Diego State University  
<https://hoh.sdsu.edu/>



Dr. Eunha Hoh is a Professor and Division Head of Environmental Health at San Diego State University's School of Public Health. She investigates diverse environmental pollutants and their impact on human health and ocean health. Dr. Hoh developed an approach for detecting a broad range of organic chemicals in various types of environmental matrices. Using this approach, she discovered and identified previously unknown contaminants and conducted comprehensive organic contaminant assessments. She is a member of the [California Ocean Protection Council's Science Advisory Team \(OPC-SAT\)](#) and co-chaired a OPC-SAT working group that developed a [microplastic risk assessment](#) to inform the implementation of SB 1263 (2018). Dr. Hoh is lead PI on a [COAST-funded project](#) to study the toxicity of tire wear particles and microfibers; this study will conclude in summer 2023. Finally, Dr. Hoh was appointed by Speaker Anthony Rendon in 2018 to serve on the Scientific Guidance Panel for the [California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program](#). Dr. Hoh holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Indiana University.

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and the California Ocean Science Trust**



COAST is the CSU affinity group for marine and coastal related activities. COAST integrates systemwide resources and promotes interdisciplinary multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of coastal and marine systems. The scope of COAST includes the ocean, coast, and coastal watersheds.

California Ocean Science Trust is dedicated to accelerating progress towards a healthy and productive ocean future for California. Created by state legislation, OST bridges the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and sound ocean management.

