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## Activist group to sue California recycler

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**PITTSBURGH** -- A California activist group has issued a 60-day notice of its intent to sue Standard Industries for allegedly violating the federal Clean Water Act.

The Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program contends that the scrap metal recycler is discharging contaminated stormwater into the Santa Clara River from its 11-acre facility.

Ventura, Calif.-based Standard's yard contains "mountains of scrap heaps" and is illegally discharging metals, oils and grease, the group alleges, adding that the determination was based on its own monitoring program, in which it obtained runoff samples, and the recycler's Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit sampling reports.

"Allowing Standard to continue its highly visible toxic discharge without a Clean Water Act enforcement action would send the wrong message to Ventura County businesses," according to Jason Weiner, associate director and staff attorney at Ventura Coastkeeper.

In addition to recycling, Standard Industries is also a licensed demolition contractor.

The company declined to comment on the matter.

The nonprofit group, which has more than 700 members, said it intends to force Standard to implement best management practices for source and treatment control, calling the recycler "the most visible and toxically egregious stormwater polluter in the county."

The notice is part of a growing trend of lawsuits targeted against metals recyclers. Ruby Metals Inc., Bloomington, Calif., has been hit with a lawsuit by Inland Empire Waterkeeper (AMM, Sept. 16), and the activist group said two more lawsuits against recyclers are in the works.

Global Community Monitor filed a lawsuit against nonferrous recycler and smelter Custom Alloy Scrap Sales Inc., Oakland, Calif. (AMM, Sept. 15).

On the East Coast, Clean Water Action filed a similar complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts against Allied Recycling Center Inc., Walpole, Mass. (AMM, Nov. 17).

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