

B R I E F S

Watershed at a Glance

BALLAST WATER BELT-

TIGHTENING: Federal agencies are tightening controls on ballast water, a major vector for invasive aquatic species on the West Coast. The US Coast Guard's new standard for the allowable concentration of living organisms in discharged water took effect June 21, 2012. Lieutenant Rebecca Deakin, speaking at the Bay Planning Coalition's Ballast Water Briefing in Oakland on June 7, said ships built after December 1, 2013 must meet the new requirements; existing ships will be phased in over a five-year period. The agency considers the standard as the tightest than can be implemented and enforced at this time. Meanwhile, the US Environmental Protection Agency is revising its Vessel General Permit in light of both the Coast Guard regulations and California's more stringent standards.



The largest containership ever to visit North America docked at Oakland this March. Photo courtesy Port of Oakland.