Microplastics – a Macro Problem?

Dr. Scott Coffin
State Water Resources Control Board

Plastic pollution has been found in water, air, soil, animals, plants, food, and recently human blood. Plastics are fundamental building blocks of modern society due to their durability, versatility, and light weight- however these same properties have led to the irreversible contamination of the world’s oceans, soils, and water with microplastics. California is leading the global push to develop science, policies, and regulations to assess and manage risks of microplastics to humans and aquatic ecosystems.

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 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.