

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PUBLIC HEARING, AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION

AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY ON THE USE OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE WATERS FOR POWER PLANT COOLING

TO EXTEND THE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE REDONDO BEACH GENERATING STATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on the Draft Amendment to the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling to Extend the Compliance Schedule for the Redondo Beach Generating Station (OTC Policy Amendment) and Draft Staff Report. The amendment to the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling or OTC Policy) would extend the compliance date for Redondo Beach Generating Station Units 5, 6, and 8 (Redondo Beach) for two years through December 31, 2023, to address system-wide grid reliability concerns.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral public input and comments on the Proposed OTC Policy Amendment and Proposed Staff Report, and following the public hearing, the State Water Board will consider adoption of the OTC Policy Amendment and Staff Report. The public hearing and consideration of adoption meeting will be held as follows:

Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Video and Teleconference Only

No Physical Meeting Location

(Authorized and in furtherance of Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20)

Video Broadcast: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>

Additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution will be available at least 10 days before the hearing at the [Remote Meeting page](#). This public hearing is currently scheduled to take place via video and teleconference only, but the format may be changed in the future to also allow for in-person attendance. Any person desiring to receive future notices about changes to the

date, time, location, or format of the public hearing should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list, as described below.

Additional information on the hearing and consideration of adoption meeting can be found at the [State Water Board's web site](#).

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board adopted the OTC Policy on May 4, 2010 (effective date October 1, 2010), as [Resolution No. 2010-0020](#) establishing technology-based standards to implement federal Clean Water Act section 316(b), which requires that the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impacts. The OTC Policy includes compliance dates for power plants using once-through cooling technology with orderly retirements and replacement of capacity aimed at maintaining local and system-wide electrical grid reliability in the State of California. Of the nineteen power plants originally covered by the OTC Policy, eleven have either retired, repowered, or have come into final compliance.

The joint-agency Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS) was created to advise the State Water Board on the implementation of the OTC Policy, ensuring compliance schedules take into account the reliability of California's electricity supply, including local area reliability, statewide grid reliability, and permitting constraints.

Recent events have resulted in concern for system-wide grid reliability in the summers of 2022 and 2023. Chiefly, a prolonged and extreme August 2020 heatwave caused a series of events that triggered rolling blackouts. California energy agencies conducted a system-wide analysis, or stack analysis, to compare capacity of all existing energy resources and resources expected to be online in 2022 to forecasted demand under similar conditions as those experienced during the August 2020 blackouts. The stack analysis demonstrated that energy supply is insufficient to meet projected demand in summer 2022. Additionally, the energy agencies' analysis pointed to several uncertainties in energy supply and demand in summer 2023. Redondo Beach Units 5, 6, and 8 were identified as resources available to partially mitigate the projected energy shortfall and support grid reliability.

On March 26, 2021, the SACCWIS approved the [2021 Report of the SACCWIS](#), which includes alternatives and a recommendation to the State Water Board to extend the OTC Policy compliance date for Redondo Beach for two years through December 31, 2023.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft OTC Policy Amendment and Draft Staff Report are available on the [OTC Policy documents website](#). You may request a paper copy of the Draft OTC Policy Amendment or Draft Staff Report by contacting Jonathan Dolan at (916) 323-0880 or via email at Jonathan.Dolan@waterboards.ca.gov.

Information pertaining to the SACCWIS is posted on the [SACCWIS website](#). The OTC Policy and supported documents are available on the [OTC Policy documents website](#).

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the Draft OTC Policy Amendment and Draft Staff Report. Written comments that are unrelated to the proposed amendment will not be accepted.

Written comments must be received no later than **12:00 noon on July 16, 2021**, and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (Mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Please indicate in the subject line: **"Comment Letter – OTC Policy Amendment."**

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format if less than 15 megabytes in total size, to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, the comment letter may be submitted by mail, hand delivery, or fax to (916) 341–5620. U.S. mail must be received (not postmarked) at the State Water Board offices by the close of the comment period.

Note: All hand-delivered submittals must arrive and be dated and time-stamped prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on July 16, 2021. Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check-in with lobby security personnel, who can contact the Clerk's office at (916) 341-5600.

If you would like a copy of the written comments submitted on this subject, please send a request to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, identifying the subject listed above. Written comments will not be available until after the comment deadline.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the October 19, 2021 public hearing and consideration of adoption meeting, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. At the hearing, participants will be given an opportunity to provide oral comments. Participants will also be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. Documentary or written evidence (other than a written version of oral comments) will not be accepted into the administrative record at the hearing or thereafter. To ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral comments may be time-limited. Presentation recommendations can be found on the [Board Presentation's webpage](#).

WEBCAST INFORMATION

Live video and audio broadcasts of the public hearing and consideration of adoption meeting, for attendees that are solely interested in watching and not participating, will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public Meeting Live Webcasts page](#).

POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES TO THE NOTICED ITEMS

Any changes regarding the noticed items will be noticed through the e-mail distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must sign up for the e-mail distribution list by accessing the [Email List Subscription Form website](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice, the amendment, or the OTC Policy to Jonathan Dolan at (916) 323-0880 or Jonathan.Dolan@waterboards.ca.gov or Katherine Walsh at (916) 445-2317 or Katherine.Walsh@waterboards.ca.gov.

June 14, 2021
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board