

BLUE FOLDER ITEM

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2021

N.1 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE REDONDO BEACH GENERATING STATION (AES POWER PLANT), ITS PROPERTY VALUE AND OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE, AND THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE PORTIONS OF THE PROPERTY FOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES.

APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OPPOSING AMENDMENT OF THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S ONCE THROUGH COOLING (OTC) POLICY TO ALLOW FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE REDONDO BEACH GENERATING STATION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

RESOLUTION 2110-096

ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2110-096 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S 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") THAT ALLOWS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE REDONDO BEACH GENERATING STATION UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. CC-2110-096

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S 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") THAT ALLOWS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE REDONDO BEACH GENERATING STATION UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2023

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") will consider an amendment to the statewide Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling ("Once-Through Cooling" or "OTC Policy") to extend the compliance date for Redondo Beach Generating Station Units 5, 6, and 8 ("Redondo Beach Generating Station") for two years, from December 31, 2021, through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS; the State Water Board adopted the OTC Policy on May 4, 2010, under Resolution Number (No.) 2010-0020, and the Office of Administrative Law issued its approval on September 27, 2010. The OTC Policy became effective on October 1, 2010, and was amended in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2020; and

WHEREAS, originally, nineteen power plants located along the California coast withdrawing coastal and estuarine waters for cooling purposes using a single-pass system known as once- through cooling (OTC) were required to comply with the OTC Policy; and

WHEREAS, ten of the original nineteen power plants have permanently retired since adoption of the OTC Policy; and

WHEREAS, 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. The SACCWIS includes representatives from the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Coastal Commission ("Coastal Commission"), California State Lands Commission, California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Independent System Operator (CAISO), and the State Water Board; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the State Water Board amended the OTC Policy ("2020 OTC Policy Amendment") under Resolution No. 2020-0029, which extended the compliance date of the Redondo Beach Generating Station, which was originally scheduled for December 31, 2020, by one year to December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2021, the SACCWIS adopted the Final 2021 Report of the SACCWIS ("Final 2021 SACCWIS Report"), recommending the State Water Board consider extending the compliance date of the Redondo Beach Generating Station for two additional years through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City and its residents have anticipated the closure of AES Redondo Beach for nearly a decade. In the mid-2010s, the City and its residents mounted an extraordinary campaign to oppose AES Redondo Beach's application to build a new power

plant at the site, and were successful in convincing AES Redondo Beach to abandon its plans for the plant; and

WHEREAS, the Redondo Beach Generating Station is unnecessary to meet the State's energy demands, and the Water Board should not sacrifice water and air quality impacts in our community by extending the power plant's OTC Policy compliance deadline; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach has vehemently opposed and continues to oppose any extension of the Redondo Beach Generating Station at each juncture; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach has submitted letters in opposition to such extensions to the State Water Resources Control Board dated May 18, 2020 and July 16, 2021 which outlines that the continued operation of the Redondo Beach Generating Station has resulted in the degradation of the wetlands and significant negative environmental impacts to air quality and marine life and is not necessary for the reliability of California's electrical supply.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach opposes the State Water Resources Control Board's 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") that allows for the continued operation of the Redondo Beach Generating Station until December 31, 2023.

SECTION 2. That the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach hereby finds:

- A. The Redondo Beach Generating Station operated by AES Redondo Beach is the oldest and least efficient once-through-cooling (OTC) facility in California.
- B. The operations at the Redondo Beach Generating Station, which have been described in the past, by the owner, AES Redondo Beach, as presenting an imminent and substantial risk to human health and safety, are causing significant harm to the environment.
- C. The operations at the Redondo Beach Generating Station are causing unpermitted degradation of the acres of wetlands on which the plant is located.
- D. The Redondo Beach Generating Station produces more air pollution per megawatt-hour (MWh) generated than the other three plants. Moreover, the topology of the area causes this air pollution to accumulate and stagnate along the coast, rather than dissipate.

- E. The Redondo Beach Generating Station pollutes the environment in one of the most densely populated communities in California, with more than 21,000 people living within one mile of the plant and enormous summer crowds at the adjacent beach.
- F. The Redondo Beach Generating Station also requires more OTC intake water and produces more cooling water discharge per unit of energy generated than other plants.
- G. Cooling water withdrawals cause adverse impacts when larger aquatic organisms, such as fish and mammals, are trapped against a facility's intake screens (impingement) and when smaller marine life, such as larvae and eggs, are killed by being drawn through the cooling system and exposed to high pressures and temperatures (entrainment).
- H. The above detrimental environmental impacts can be avoided because the Redondo Beach Generating Station is unnecessary to ensure the reliability of California's electrical supply. Extending the compliance deadlines of the Alamitos, Huntington Beach, and Ormond Beach power plants already provides more than enough electrical capacity needed to maintain system-wide grid reliability.
- I. The Redondo Beach Generating Station should be closed as soon as possible, as it is the least efficient and most environmentally damaging plant.
- J. Only retiring the Redondo Beach Generating Station will eliminate the negative impacts to our community and the marine environment.
- K. The Water Board should decline to extend the Redondo Beach Generating Station compliance deadline, consistent with its mandate to protect water quality under federal and state law.

SECTION 3. That the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach incorporates each recital set forth above herein.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of October, 2021.

William C. Brand, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

Michael W. Webb, City Attorney

Eleanor Manzano, CMC, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss
CITY OF REDONDO BEACH)

I, Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk of the City of Redondo Beach, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. CC-2110-096 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach, California, at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the 12th day of October, 2021, and there after signed and approved by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk, and that said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Eleanor Manzano, CMC
City Clerk

