

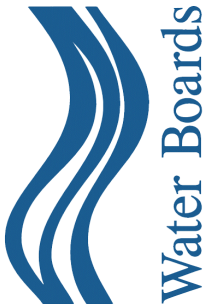


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE WATER BOARD RELEASES UPDATED DRAFT POLICY TO PROTECT FISH AND MAMMALS AT COAST POWER PLANTS

Draft Proposal Ensures Electric Grid Reliability & Marine Life Protection

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) today issued an updated draft policy for 19 coastal electric power plants that use once-through-cooling water intake systems. “Top priorities in the staff’s development of this policy have been protecting marine life from the adverse effects of the once-through cooling process and ensuring the reliable availability of electricity” said Jonathan Bishop, the State Water Board’s Chief Deputy Director.

Each year in California, seals, sea lions and turtles as well as billions of fish larvae, juvenile and fully-grown fish are killed in the power plants’ once-through cooling process, which returns about 16 billion gallons to the ocean each day after the ocean water is used to cool equipment. Most mortality occurs as aquatic life is drawn into intake pipes and pumped through the system. The State Water Board is required by the Clean Water Act to minimize adverse environmental impacts by requiring that the best available technology is used regarding the location, design, construction and capacity of cooling intake structures.

In developing the draft policy, the State Water Board staff has worked with The California Public Utilities Commission, the California Energy Commission and the California Independent System Operator to develop a compliance schedule that takes into account many coastal power plants are currently needed for electric grid reliability.

The draft policy proposes reducing the use of ocean water by 93% and gives system owners/operators several compliance choices such as dry cooling and reduced water cooling. The draft also provides a path for possible alternative requirements for nuclear power plants. Details of the proposed draft policy and compliance dates for each plant can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/cwa316.shtml

The draft policy, which has been updated following a series of hearings, workshops, and comment periods, will be available for review and comment until Noon, April 13.

The State Water Board is likely to consider the proposed draft policy at its meeting on May 4.