

Diablo Canyon Power Plant Permitting Workshop



November 12, 2025

Workshop Guidelines

Workshop Guidelines

Presentation

Questions and answers

Oral comments



Outline

Background

Permitting process

NPDES permit

Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Next steps

Central Coast Water Board Mission

To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the Central Coast Region's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Water Board's Limited Jurisdiction

Does Not Include

- Land conservation
- Decommissioning
- Safety, including seismic
- Nuclear waste storage
- Economic impacts
- Mitigation for impingement and entrainment

Other Agencies

County

Coastal Commission

Public Utilities Commission

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

State Water Resources Control Board



Central Coast Water Board Role

Two Permits

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System – NPDES
- Industrial Stormwater

One Certification

- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Central Coast Water Board Permits

Federal and state laws and regulations

Permit history

Extended operations

NPDES Permit

Prohibitions

NPDES Permit

Prohibitions

Effluent Limitations

- Flow
- Temperature
- Chlorine
- Metals
- Sanitary waste
- tributyltin

Compliance Schedule

PG&E requested additional time to meet tributyltin limit

- Interim limit and compliance schedule for tributyltin

NPDES Permit

Prohibitions

Effluent limitations

Special studies

- Toxicity
- Dilution
- Sea foam
- Impingement and entrainment
- Climate change response
- Bacteria and dissolved oxygen

NPDES Permit

Prohibitions

Effluent limitations

Special studies

Monitoring and reporting

NPDES Permit

Prohibitions

Effluent limitations

Special studies

Monitoring and reporting

Fact sheet

Changes from Prior Permit

New discharge locations
New effluent limitations
Removed effluent limitations
Special studies
Receiving water limitations

Receiving Water Limitations

Prior permit contained receiving water limitations

Supreme Court decision, *City and County of San Francisco, California v. Environmental Protection Agency*

- Some receiving water limitations were removed
- Added provisions to ensure water quality and beneficial uses are protected
 - Discharge prohibitions
 - Additional monitoring and reporting
 - Special studies and corresponding reopener provisions

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

- State certification prior to issuance of federal permit or license
- Certifies compliance with water quality requirements
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission license renewal triggers requirement for water quality certification

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

- Water quality certification requires compliance
 - NPDES wastewater permit
 - NPDES industrial stormwater permit
 - Once-Through Cooling Policy
- After issuance, Nuclear Regulatory Commission can proceed with license renewal

Next Steps

Public comment period

- Written comments due December 8

Public hearing

- February 26-27, 2026

PG&E – Diablo Canyon

Water Quality Permits for Continued Operation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is preparing to issue two permits required for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's continued operations of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near Avila Beach in San Luis Obispo County. The permits include a five-year renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which regulates discharges such as cooling water and treated process water, and issuance of a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification. These regulatory actions follow federal and state decisions to extend Diablo Canyon's operations to 2030.

At the same time as the Central Coast Water Board is considering the two draft permits for Diablo Canyon, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering PG&E's request for 20-year license renewals for each of the two Diablo Canyon reactors. The NRC has released a [safety evaluation report](#) and an [environmental impact statement](#) in response to PG&E's application. As explained below, renewals of the Diablo Canyon NRC licenses are dependent upon permitting by the Central Coast Water Board.

Central Coast Water Board Permits

California legislation passed in 2022 requires the California Public Utilities Commission to extend Diablo Canyon's operations to October 31, 2030. To allow continued operation of the power plant, the Central Coast Water Board will consider two actions: renewing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and issuing a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification.

The Central Coast Water Board will accept public comments on the tentative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and tentative Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification and will hold a public hearing to propose adoption of the order and certification for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. See [Upcoming Meetings and Workshops](#) for details.

NPDES Permit

The Central Coast Water Board regulates waste discharges from the power plant via the NPDES permit. These waste discharges include cooling water, treated process water, desalination brine, stormwater, and treated domestic wastewater discharged into Diablo Cove.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Before the NRC's license renewals can take effect, the Central Coast Water Board must certify that discharges to ocean waters resulting from the license renewals will comply with California's water quality standards. Among other things, the Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification will rely on the NPDES permit requirements, which include effluent limitations to control the waste discharges described above, to confirm water quality standard compliance.

Permit and CWA Section 401 Certification Renewal Process

The NPDES permit renewal process includes a comprehensive evaluation of PG&E's compliance with current discharge requirements and the incorporation of any new regulatory provisions. These may include updated standards for the [once-through cooling system](#). Updated permit conditions will reflect the latest state and federal water quality standards and include monitoring to ensure compliance and environmental protection. The water quality certification will reflect the revised NPDES permit requirements.

The NPDES permit renewal and water quality certification may be considered for adoption by the Central Coast Water Board.



Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

Diablo Canyon Workshop Information

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St, Avila Beach

Format: Hybrid in person and virtual

Opportunity to Comment by December 8, 2025

- Tentative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- Tentative Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification

[Find Zoom Link on the Remote Meeting Page](#)

[Notice of Public Workshop](#)

Contact Us

Contact NPDES staff (discharge to surface water):

- RB3-npdes@waterboards.ca.gov

Email Subscription List

Subscribe directly to the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Permitting Email List to receive notifications and the latest updates.

*Email Address

Questions?

Comment and question request form



Public Comment Session

Comment or question request deadline: 10:40 a.m.

One individual per organization

Comments and Contact Information

Comments due December 8, 5 p.m.

RB3-npdes@waterboards.ca.gov

Delivered or mailed

Harvey Packard

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Email distribution list

- See website