



Media Release

State Water Board amends water cooling policy to extend Redondo Beach power plant operations

Board's action addresses grid reliability

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board on Tuesday adopted an amendment to its Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Policy that extends the compliance date for the Redondo Beach Generating Station, enabling it to operate through 2023 to provide additional electrical grid capacity.

The facility uses ocean water for cooling as part of the power generation process. The OTC Policy, which has been in effect since 2010, seeks to reduce the use of marine and estuarine water consumption by coastal power plants in California while maintaining grid reliability.

The board's action follows a recommendation by the State Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures to extend the generating station's operations because the facility provides additional electrical grid capacity when more supply is needed. The plant operator also will continue to fund mitigation measures in place since 2015 for marine protection projects managed by the Ocean Protection Council and California Coastal Conservancy. These measures include efforts to restore and/or enhance coastal marine or estuarine habitat.

In March, the advisory committee considered the results of an energy needs analysis conducted by the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission and California Independent System Operator Corporation that indicates potential shortfalls in summertime energy demands through 2023 without the expanded capacity of the Redondo Beach facility.

“Climate change-induced extreme heatwaves are impacting our natural resources like never before,” said State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel. “With shifting energy use patterns and threatened water supply, the state must balance a number of interests that are key to both environmental protection and energy security. This short-term extension helps meet the energy needs of Californians while the state pursues long-term energy and environmental goals.”



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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In addition to the two-year extension approved Tuesday, the board last year granted three-year extensions for the Alamitos, Huntington Beach and Ormond Beach generating stations.

The board is charged with implementing federal Clean Water Act Section 316(b), which states that the location, design, construction and capacity of cooling water intake structures must reflect the best technology available to protect aquatic life.

Please see the [OTC Policy's Official Policy Documentation](#) for additional information.

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper resource allocation and efficient use for present and future generations.