

ADOPTION HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ONCE-THROUGH COOLING POLICY

June 18, 2013



BACKGROUND

- On May 4, 2010 The State Water Board adopted the Statewide “Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling”
 - Also known as “Once-Through Cooling”
- The Policy was established to:
 - Implement federal Clean Water Act section 316(b)



CURRENT POLICY

- Intent of the Policy:
 - Protect the beneficial uses of the State's coastal and estuarine waters.
 - Ensure State's electrical power needs are met.
- It applies to 15 existing power plants that withdraw coastal and estuarine waters for cooling purposes using a single-pass system called once-through cooling.



PERMIT REQUIREMENT

- Policy's requirements and compliance is implemented through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
- To ensure statewide consistency, the Policy was established for the State Water Board to assume responsibility for all NPDES permit actions for power plants subject to this Policy.



PROPOSED AMENDMENT

- Return NPDES permit reissuance to the Regional Water Boards for the power plants subject to this Policy.
- To ensure statewide consistency, State Water Board staff will be directly involved and support the Regional Water Boards in all issues related to implementation of this Policy.



COMMENTS

- Public comment process -
 - April 19, 2013: Notice of Adoption Hearing and Opportunity to Comment
 - Comments due by 12:00 p.m. on June 4, 2013
- Summary of written comments



THANK YOU

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