



Media Release

Central Coast Water Board Approves Santa Barbara Desalination Permit

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The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) approved a permit Friday that will allow the City of Santa Barbara to restart its desalination facility to produce drinking water during the drought.

The Central Coast Water Board's action modified a permit that it initially issued in 1991 to clarify that the desalination facility meets state requirements for operating an open-ocean intake.

The City agreed to perform mitigation measures including adding an updated screen technology to the intake and applying \$500,000 towards a coastal restoration project approved by the Regional Water Board prior to reactivation of the desalination facility. In addition, the City committed to studying, by 2017, the feasibility of replacing the open-ocean intake with intakes installed beneath the ocean bottom, which could decrease harmful effects on marine life.

"The Board recognizes the importance and urgency of modifying the desalination facility's permit, which will allow the city to get the plant up and running to help the City deal with the historic drought," said Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair of the Regional Water Board.

Central Coast Regional Water Board agendas can be viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/2014_agendas.shtml

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the approximately 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County.

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