

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
AUGUST 15, 2023**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE INTERIM MITIGATION CALCULATION FOR THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY ON THE USE OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE WATERS FOR POWER PLANT COOLING.

DISCUSSION

This is an information item on the development of a proposed resolution to revise the calculation used to determine annual interim mitigation payments in accordance with the statewide Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling or OTC Policy). The OTC Policy requires owners and operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate interim impingement and entrainment impacts to marine and estuarine life resulting from their cooling water intake structures. An owner or operator may comply with this requirement by providing funding for mitigation projects. For owners and operators that elected to comply by providing funding, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) calculates the interim mitigation payments annually in accordance with [Resolution No. 2015-0057](#). Resolution No. 2015-0057 provides procedures for calculating an entrainment payment, an impingement payment, and a management and monitoring payment.

The proposed resolution is likely to revise the calculation procedures to ensure the interim mitigation payments appropriately compensate for interim impacts based on current mitigation costs. The proposed resolution will likely revise the default cost of entrainment, the site-specific cost of entrainment for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, the cost of impingement, and the annual escalator for inflation to ensure the interim mitigation payments are compensatory. The State Water Board is collaborating with the Ocean Protection Council to contract an expert to evaluate and recommend revisions to the interim mitigation payment calculation.

Staff will provide information on the development of the proposed resolution and opportunities for engagement. Additionally, staff from the Coastal Conservancy and the Ocean Protection Council will present on the current and potential future use of interim mitigation funds.

POLICY ISSUE

None. The State Water Board will consider adopting a resolution to revise the interim mitigation calculation at a future board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an information item only.