

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014**

Prepared on September 22, 2014

**ITEM NUMBER:** 10

**SUBJECT:** Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Former Dynegy Morro Bay Power Plant, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County (WDR No. 95-28, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit [NPDES] No. CA0003743)

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**KEY INFORMATION**

**Discharger:** Dynegy Morro Bay, LLC  
**Location:** Former Morro Bay Power Plant, 1290 Embarcadero Road, Morro Bay  
**ECM PIN:** CW-220808  
**Type of Discharge:** Treated process wastewater (screen wash water overflow) and once-through cooling water from the natural gas-fired power plant (up to 725 million gallons per day)  
**Disposal Method:** Treated spent cooling water and screen wash water overflow was discharged into Estero Bay.  
**Existing Orders:** Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-28, NPDES Permit No. CA0003743  
**This Action:** Rescind Order No. 95-28

**SUMMARY**

On March 10, 1995, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-28, NPDES Permit No. CA0003743, which allows Dynegy Morro Bay, LLC (Discharger) to discharge treated water to waters of the United States. The power plant is no longer in operation. On July 23, 2014, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Termination to rescind the subject permit.

**DISCUSSION**

In October 1953, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) contractors began excavation for the Morro Bay steam electric plant on a 140-acre site that was a former US Navy base during World War II. Located within the City of Morro Bay, north of the Morro Bay Embarcadero, the power plant began plant operation in 1955. In the 1960s, PG&E added additional generating units to reach its current generating capacity of 1,002 million watts from four generating units.

The existing cooling water intake structures are located east of Morro Rock inside Morro Bay Harbor, while spent cooling water is discharged adjacent to and north-northeast of Morro Rock into southern Estero Bay. In the event of a sump overflow, screen wash water is returned to the intake structure. Discharge locations are depicted in the attached Order No. 95-28.

In 1998, Duke Energy purchased the plant from PG&E. In 2006, Duke Energy sold the facility and several other natural gas plants to LS Power Group. In 2007, Dynegy Morro Bay, LLC acquired LS Power Group and continued to operate the plant on an intermittent basis. On July 23, 2014, the Discharger sent a letter notifying Central Coast Water Board staff that the Morro Bay Power Plant will be closing and asked the Board to rescind its NPDES permit.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

On July 31, 2014, Central Coast Water Board staff sent a letter and public notice to the Discharger and other potentially interested parties notifying them of the intent to rescind Order No. 95-28. The Discharger published the public notice in a local newspaper identifying the Central Coast Water Board's intent to rescind the NPDES permit. To date, Central Coast Water Board staff has not received any comments regarding the proposed rescission.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Rescind Order No. 95-28, as proposed.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Order No. 95-28, NPDES Permit No. CA0003743.

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