

## Aston, Rosario@Waterboards

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**From:** jon schwalbach <jonschwalbach@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2018 9:54 PM  
**To:** Owens, Cassandra@Waterboards; Aston, Rosario@Waterboards  
**Cc:** tim.flynn@oxnard.org; carmen.ramirez@oxnard.org; bryan.macdonald@oxnard.org; oscar.madrigal@oxnard.org; perellobert@gmail.com; info@ceneighbors.com  
**Subject:** Reverse Mandalay Generating Station Shut-Down Decision  
**Attachments:** CIHarbor\_schwalbach\_letter.docx

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Re: Mandalay Generating Station

This letter addresses my concerns with the water quality in Channel Islands Harbor. As you are certainly aware, water quality is significantly degraded this year, likely related to the cessation of pumping water through the Edison Canal. Based on observations a number of residents have made, it is clear the canal is a continuous source of poor-quality water being introduced to the harbor during each tide cycle. A number of these observations are based on multiple kayak and stand-up paddleboard trips each week residents have taken around the harbor. These trips allow for a real-time and close-up view of water quality at different times and during different tide conditions. We use clarity as a proxy for water quality.

Currently the waters around the Seabridge Marina and Vons shopping center and around the Westport and Seabridge developments are clearer than the water in the Edison Canal. During outgoing tides, however, the poor-quality (turbid) water is pulled out of the Edison Canal into the main channel. When the tide turns around (incoming tide) much of this turbid, murky water is pushed back into the Westport - Seabridge area, degrading the water quality. Below is a photo taken on August 3, during the outgoing tide, showing the debris backed up against the grating in the Canal, south of Wooley Road. Is there a responsible party assigned to clean this, either the city or NRG? This probably isn't the photo one would want to find in the local newspapers.



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This letter addresses my concerns with the water quality in Channel Islands Harbor. As you are certainly aware, water quality is significantly degraded this year, likely related to the cessation of pumping water through the Edison Canal. Based on observations a number of residents have made, it is clear the canal is a continuous source of poor-quality water being introduced to the harbor during each tide cycle. A number of these observations are based on multiple kayak and stand-up paddleboard trips each week residents have taken around the harbor. These trips allow for a real-time and close-up view of water quality at different times and during different tide conditions. We use clarity as a proxy of water quality.

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The second photo is from Google Maps, and it illustrates that even during dry periods there is input from the farm fields into Edison Canal. This will be a much more significant problem during the rainy season. It is not uncommon to find thousands of strawberries floating in the harbor after a rain, and nutrients from fertilizers in the field are undoubtedly introduced during those events too.



There has been a request to restart the NRG pumps to mitigate the water quality issues, and I have no doubt that would help solve the issues, and strongly support that action. If, however, restart is not possible, then a viable alternative would be to block the Edison Canal from introducing stagnant, low-quality water to the harbor with each tide cycle. I would be happy to discuss these observations in more detail at your request.

I do find it ironic that there were many cheers and high-fives when the closure of the powerplant was announced, but those same voices are now mostly quiet when one of the unintended but probably not unforeseen consequences comes home to roost. I hope you will address these serious water quality issues immediately.

Sincerely,

Jon R Schwalbach, Ph. D.  
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