

06/20/2018 11:27 AM

July 28, 2018

Los Angeles Regional Water Board Commissioners
Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

RE: 6-28-18 notice to Thomas DiCiolli, Plant Manager
Mandalay Generating Station Tentative
Termination of WDR's etc. – Oxnard, Calif.
NPDES No. CA00001180/CI No. 2093

Dear Commissioners Glickfeld, Yee, Munoz, Stringer and Guzman:

As you may be aware, residents of Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor area community held several homeowners' associations meetings in the last six weeks regarding an urgent, destructive situation to the Channel's water. I along with the residents of the community are seeking your timely assistance to bring needed remedy to the situation.

The cause of the devastating water conditions has been determined to be created by the lack of circulation system/pumping operations from NRG's Mandalay Generating Station (which had been in existence since 1965). In meeting with Mayor Tim Flynn and Councilman Bert Perello, they referenced that the Regional Water Control Board had authorized an earlier than anticipated shut down of Mandalay Generating plant. Community members became aware of a 2020 mandated shutdown agreement with the State, but were not aware of the early shut down that occurred. We are concerned about the disastrous impact of the early shut down, and certainly wonder what NRG presented to the Commissioners regarding the impact of their early shut down actions. In response to this critical situation, the City hired experts to test waters. In their report, in addition to reporting on water toxicity levels, the scientific executives warned that the lack of circulation will create long term, sustained problems. In fact they cited several examples of other harbors with similar disastrous results. Their advice was clearly to deal with this matter in a timely manner in order that conditions in the water do not develop to promote even more radical algal growth.

From my and others in the community's understanding, it appears that the NRG may not have fully informed the Board of the ecological impact that their actions would have on the critical Channel Islands Harbor waterway/canals. In fact, our homeowners' association leadership has indicated that there was not a full disclosure in NRG's application to explain that the pumps captured and used the waters from what is the end loop of the entire Harbor's flushing system. The result of the cessation of the pump activity resulting in totally impeding the tidal outflow of the waters.

In addition, we have also learned that the same canal waters serve as the irrigation run-off for miles of farm fields, creating a problem of the chemicals and fertilizers flowing back into the Harbor itself, given that there is no filtration.

The unique qualities of Oxnard's Channel Harbor serve as a special draw not only to current residents, but also to future homeowners and tourists—all of whom bring their buying power/support of local community businesses and contribute to tax dollar revenue. We know that each of you appreciates the importance of assuring that the local regulatory and government officials attend to ensuring that the vibrancy of waters in the area are maintained and held to the highest standards.

We have been advised that there will be a public hearing set for September 13, 2018 regarding the Regional Water Quality Board's prior response to NRG's request to discontinue pump operations coverage under the NPDES permit program. **I, and other concerned residents, respectfully request that you address this matter—reverse the decision to allow suspension of the NRG NPDES permit and the acceptance of the shutdown of the circulation pumps prior to the legally-mandated shut down date several years away. We ask that NRG be required to reinstate the pumps operations or provide a solution to provide for the outflow of channel waters until an alternative process can be assessed and implemented to provide water circulation.**

Thank you for timely and impactful attention to this matter, and I sincerely look forward to the Board's responsiveness to this disastrous ecological situation.

Very truly yours,


Judy Havas
Mandalay Bay resident

cc Cassandra Owens, LARWQB Chief
Rosario Aston, LARWQB Staff Representative

cc Tim Flynn, Mayor - Oxnard
Bert Perello, Council Member – Oxnard
John Zaragoza, County Supervisor - Oxnard