

California Regional Water
Quality Board
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

August 6, 2018

Dear Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board,

I am sending you this correspondence to be part of the public comments section of this hearing. My wife and I recently purchased a home in Channel Islands Harbor in the Seabridge Community. When we first moved in last Fall the waters in the harbor were beautifully clear and there was an abundance of bird and sea life. In the past few months the water changed and grew murky with excessive blooms of algae, most of the bird population disappeared and you could only see a few inches into the water so it was hard to tell what condition the sea life was in? We did observe some dead fish and on certain days there was an odor coming off the water.

I am not a Marine Biologist or any other form of scientist, however I grew up within two blocks of the ocean and have lived close to it most of my life. I have been a surfer and at one time was active in the Surfrider Foundation during the years we lived in San Clemente. My wife and I were also part of the Management of a Mutually Owned Water District serving approximately 50 families for about 18 years. During that time period we became aware of a toxic waste dump in the vicinity and had to mobilize a group of residents to shut it down and assure it's proper clean up, so I am somewhat aware of water quality issues and how to make sure they are properly addressed.

It would seem to me that the problems with our water quality in the Channel Islands Harbor seem to have some direct relationship with the closure of the NRG California South LP Mandalay Generating Station. I don't claim to know exactly what is wrong, but I suspect it has something to do with the stagnant water in the Edison Canal. This body of water makes it way from our harbor past hundreds of acres of farmland towards the NRG facility, with it's closure the water has no place to go but back in the harbor carrying all of the runoff from the farm land back into the harbor. On your own website you make mention of this problem as pertains to Watershed Management, and I quote:

Excessive nitrogen (reflected here as high levels of ammonia) may lead to a condition of eutrophication (excessive nutrient loading) which can influence pH levels as well as promote increased algal growth. Scum may be evident due to floating algal material and odors may result when excessive algae starts to die off. Thus, it makes sense to group these TMDLs (calling it a "nitrogen and related effects" TMDL "group") and approach the problem by determining the sources of nitrogen loading into the watershed.

The Edison Canal was put in place to provide a source of water for the power plant and any problems it may now be creating should be handled as part of any proposed closure. If the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has factual evidence that this is not the case and the problems in the harbor stem from some other factor or combination of factors then those should be addressed.

Channel Islands Harbor is not just my home, it is a living part of the ecosystem and if it is not cleaned up and restored to it's former condition it is going to have far reaching consequences to the human and animal population in the area. Beyond those issues a polluted and dead harbor will have financial impact on the City of Oxnard, the County of Ventura and the State of California.

I would ask the Board to not release NRG from any involvement until all of the issues are fully investigated and a satisfactory resolution put in place.

Respectfully,



Michael L Millett
1509 Windshore Way
Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 366-0597