

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
(213) 576-6600**

**Public Notice No.19-019  
NPDES No. CA0061191**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PROPOSED REISSUANCE OF  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit)**

<u>DISCHARGER</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING WATER</u>
Southern California Edison Company Pebbly Beach Desalination Plant	1 Pebbly Beach Road Avalon, CA 90704	Pacific Ocean Nearshore Zone

Southern California Edison Company (hereinafter, Discharger) discharges reverse osmosis brine, product water, filter backwash water, untreated seawater, and wastewater from flushing seawater supply pipelines to the Pacific Ocean, a water of the United States. The discharge is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order Number R4-2011-0165, (adopted on October 6, 2011) as amended by Order Number R4-2011-0165-A01, which was adopted on October 9, 2014, and expired on September 10, 2016. Order Number R4-2011-0165-A01 also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Number CA0061191) Program. The Discharger filed a Report of Waste Discharge and applied to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) for reissuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and an NPDES permit to discharge wastewater from the Facility.

The Pebbly Beach Desalination Plant (Facility) is located at 1 Pebbly Beach Road, Avalon, CA 90704. The Facility provides potable water to the City of Avalon. The desalination plant site is located within the confines of the Southern California Edison (SCE) Pebbly Beach Generating Station, which provides electricity and gas for Santa Catalina Island. The desalination system consisted of two seawater supply wells and 16 microfiltration units, four modular reverse osmosis (RO) units, chlorination equipment, and a product water storage tank that also serves as a chlorine contact chamber. Seawater is pumped to the Facility from two intake wells located approximately 75 feet inland from the shoreline, approximately one mile southeast of the desalination plant. A subsurface pipeline conveys seawater approximately 1 mile north to the desalination plant. The existing unit has a freshwater production design capacity of 0.202 million gallons per day (MGD) or 140 gallons per minute (GPM). Any potable water produced that is not immediately used is stored in a storage tank. The Facility is permitted to discharge up to 0.720 MGD (500 GPM) of reject brine, saltwater bypass (untreated seawater), filter

backwash from the desalination process, and wastewater from flushing the seawater supply pipeline through Discharge Point 001, a rip rap slope to the Pacific Ocean.

The Discharger is planning to install two new intake wells to increase the maximum intake capacity from 400 GPM to 1,100 GPM (1.584 MGD) of seawater to respond to drought conditions, and address the long term need for a reliable source of water by installing additional seawater intake wells. The existing two intake wells have a maximum capacity of 400 GPM and the proposed two new wells will have maximum capacity of 700 GPM. The total maximum intake capacity will be 1,100 GPM. The increase of the intake capacity will expand the production capacity of product water (permeate) from 0.230 MGD to 0.410 MGD. The Facility will maintain the permitted discharge flow rate of 0.720 MGD and will not discharge more than 0.720 MGD. The new intake wells will be located at the same location as the existing wells. The wells will draw seawater below the ground surface substrate. The results of subsurface well intake water sampling conducted on October 10 and 11, 2018, at the Pebble Beach Desalination Plant's intake wells indicates that entrainment of plankton is not predictably occurring at the subsurface wells. Seawater is believed to be adequately filtered seawater through sediment and geological features of the seafloor to eliminate entrainment or impingement; no marine life mortality is expected at the seawater well intake.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, tentatively proposes to issue waste discharge requirements, including effluent limitations and special conditions to the Discharger.

#### HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: December 12, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: To be determined. Please see the following link for the location:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_info/meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/meetings/)

#### AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments received, and other information received on the discharge are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

The tentative requirements, comments received and responses to comments when they are received or issued will be available on the Regional Water Board website at

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/index.htm#1](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.htm#1).

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Regional Water Board at (213) 576-6600. The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than 5 business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

### NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal adjudicative hearing pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) will not apply to this proceeding.

*Ex Parte Communications Prohibited:* As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Regional Board must be directed to staff.

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Rosario Aston  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
PHONE: (213) 576-6653  
[Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov)

### PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

1. The applicant/permittee

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than twenty business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the tentative waste discharge requirements or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing to the above address. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda

Public Notice No. 19-019  
Southern California Edison Company  
Pebbly Beach Desalination Plant

folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Regional Water Board by mail to the address above or by email to [losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov) with a copy to Rosario Aston at [Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 18, 2019**. Please reference the comments as "Comments on the tentative NPDES Permit, SCE Pebbly Beach Desalination Plant, CA0061191".

Pursuant to section 648.4 , title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, written comments or evidence submitted after the comment deadline will not be allowed or accepted into the Administrative Record without a showing of good cause for the delay, and in no event if any party or the Board would be unduly prejudiced by the late submittal including if staff or the Board would not have an adequate opportunity to review, consider, and respond to the comments or evidence.

Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar and approved without oral testimony.

#### HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will be a part of, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. Staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to three minutes maximum or less for each speaker, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Parties or persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will render a decision.

Parties or persons with special procedural requests should contact staff. Any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing not later than close of business fifteen business days prior to the date of the hearing. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, this case will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on February 13, 2020. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.

Date: October 17, 2019