

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

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

**Public Notice No. 22-007
NPDES No. CA0059188**

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

**PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**

<u>DISCHARGER</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING WATER</u>
California Department of Water Resources	Highway 99 at Pyramid Lake (west of Interstate 5 at the Smokey Bear off-ramp) Castaic, CA 91310 Los Angeles County	Pyramid Lake

California Department of Water Resources (hereinafter Discharger, or Permittee), is the owner and operator of the William E. Warne Power Plant (hereinafter Facility), hydroelectric generating station facility located in Castaic, California. The Facility discharges up to 1.95 million gallons per day (MGD) of once through cooling water and backwash water through Discharge Point 001 (A&B) and 0.020 MGD of drainage sump water through Discharge Point 002 to Pyramid Lake, a water of the United States. The Discharger filed a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) and applied to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) for renewal of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and a NPDES permit to discharge once through cooling water, backwash water and drainage sump water into Pyramid Lake.

The discharge is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2016-0224, adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on June 9, 2016. Order No. R4-2016-0224 also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No. CA0059188) Program. The Facility operates a hydroelectric generating station that produces power as an offset for requirements of the California State Water Project (SWP), a water and power conveyance system. The Facility operates two hydroelectric generating turbine units that generate up to 78 megawatts of electricity.

Water for power generation (generated water) is obtained from the SWP at Quail Lake. From the terminus of Lower Quail Canal, the water is conveyed to the William E. Warne Power Plant via the 12-foot diameter and 5-mile-long Peace Valley Pipeline, which serves as penstock (a pipe or conduit for carrying water to a water wheel or turbine) for the power plant. During operation, the penstock water is concentrated and directed at

each Pelton wheel by six large needle valves. The water exiting the power plant turbines after it has been used to generate power enters the tailrace (the channel or conduit below the water wheel or turbine through which the water flows after striking the Pelton wheel) and is discharged into Pyramid Lake. Since the generated water does not contact any areas of the Facility with pollutants and no pollutants are added to the discharge, the discharge of the generated water is not regulated by an NPDES permit.

A portion of the generated water is withdrawn from the tailrace of the generating units, before being discharged into Pyramid Lake, and used as once-through cooling water. The once-through cooling water comprises less than two tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the total generated water flow. Occasionally, when the units are shut down, source water used for once-through cooling water is withdrawn from Pyramid Lake. Up to a total of 1.95 million gallons per day (MGD) of generator air, turbine, and upper and lower guide bearing cooling waters (all once-through) and rotary strainer backwash (the rotary strainer removes particulates from cooling water and the backwash is used to clean the strainer) are discharged through Discharge Point 001 (A&B).

An on-site 50 gallons per minute (gpm) domestic (potable) water treatment plant uses the processes of chlorination (using sodium hypochlorite) and ultra-filtration to provide a potable water supply for the Facility. The source water for the water treatment plant is the power plant's fire-sump which is fed from the Unit 1 tailrace water. The water in the tailrace is penstock water when the unit is operating, and lake water from Pyramid Lake when the unit is shut down. The potable water treatment plant operates automatically on demand and is programmed to backwash every 60 minutes of runtime. An average daily runtime is approximately 30 minutes per day; therefore, it backwashes about once every two days. Backwash from the domestic water treatment plant enters a sump where it combines with compressor cooling and after cooling water, turbine shutoff valve water, ground water seepage that accumulates in the coupling gallery located below ground level, and floor drains from within the Facility. The drainage sump water is discharged when the drainage sump fills to 3.1 meters, occurring approximately every 1 to 2 days during normal conditions. The Facility discharges a maximum of 0.020 MGD of drainage sump water through Discharge Point 002. In addition, approximately once per year, the Facility will shut down Units 1 and 2 for maintenance. In these instances, residual intake water is pumped from the Pelton wheel housing structure to the drainage sump.

The Facility discharges once through cooling water and backwash water through Discharge Point 001 (A&B) and drainage sump water through Discharge Point 002 co-located at Latitude 34.6850° N, Longitude 118.7878° W into Pyramid Lake.

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

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: TBD

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board will hear testimony, if any, that is pertinent to the discharge, WDRs, and NPDES permit. Oral testimony will be heard; however, for accuracy of the record, important testimony should be in writing.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our Web address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments submitted, and other information received regarding 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 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles 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.

The tentative WDRs, comments received, and the response to comments when prepared will also be available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal quasi-adjudicative proceeding 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) does 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 Water Board must be directed to staff.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Adriana Vallejo
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 620-2160
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PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

- California Department of Water Resources

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than 20 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 be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Board by mail to the address above or by email to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy to adriana.vallejo@waterboards.ca.gov, and received at the Board's office by 5:00 p.m. on **May 16, 2022**. Please reference the comments as "Comments on tentative NPDES Permit, California Department of Water Resources, William E. Warne Power Plant, Facility, NPDES No. CA0059188".

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 occur, 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 actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to 3 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 15 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 matter will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on July 14, 2022. A continuance will not extend any deadline set forth herein.

Date: April 15, 2022