



SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
4891 Pacific Highway, Suite 112 • San Diego CA 92110 • 619/682-7200

September 1, 2009

Chairman Wright and Board Members
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Via email: rb9agenda@waterboards.ca.gov

ATTN: For September 9 meeting, Agenda Item 7

Subject: South Bay Power Plant, deny the reissuance of discharge permit, No. CA0001368, Order No. R9-2004-0154 for Dynegy South Bay, LLC

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

The General Statement for the agenda notice for this meeting starts with “The primary duty of the Regional Board is to protect the quality of the waters within the region for all beneficial uses.” At the September 9 Board meeting you have a clear opportunity to vote to take a huge step toward fulfilling that duty. The South Bay Power Plant has been degrading the ability of San Diego Bay to support its potential for supporting many of its beneficial uses for over 50 years. Denying the South Bay Power plant the permission it needs to discharge into San Diego Bay will directly protect and restore many of these long degraded beneficial uses.

The direct impacts to the Bay from this discharge are:

- entrainment of the larvae and eggs of marine animals by the cooling water intake,
- discharge of the dead marine life which increases BOD,
- discharge of anti-fouling chemicals,
- discharge of copper from the tubing,
- elevation of water temperature, and
- increase in turbidity in the waters of the Bay.

All of these all well known impacts of water cooled power plants.

These direct impacts result in the degradation of the water quality and the wildlife support value of the Bay in many ways such as:

- reduction in population of fish and marine invertebrates due to the entrainment of eggs and larvae,
- reduction in marine vegetation, including eelgrass, due to the discharged copper, temperature, and turbidity, which in turn reduces the fish nursery value of the bay,
- degradation in the health and reproduction of marine animals due to the temperature, turbidity, chemicals, and BOD,
- reduction in forage available for seabirds in the Bay due to the loss of marine animals,
- impairment of visibility due to the turbidity, which impedes foraging by seabirds, including endangered Pelicans and California Least Terns,

- reduction in fish available for people to catch, and
- Increase in vulnerability to invasion of tropical invasive marine species due to the temperature increase.

Many of these impacts interact increasing their cumulative impact. All of these negative impacts to the beneficial uses of the Bay can be reversed by this single action by this Board.

It is not as though this power plant has a lot of overriding benefits that might offset its negative impacts to the beneficial uses of the Bay. It causes air pollution and respiratory problems to a large population of nearby residents, is much less energy efficient than modern plants compounding our Greenhouse Gas problems, is unsightly, and it takes up a large bayfront land area that should be put to much better use. This obsolete plant has served out its useful life and should be removed even if it did not have such huge negative impacts on San Diego Bay.

Common sense and your duty (“The primary duty of the Regional Board is to protect the quality of the waters within the region for all beneficial uses.”) require that you deny any reissuance or extension of this permit. This may be your clearest opportunity to implement that duty. Please do not be distracted from this duty.

In case of questions or follow-up, the undersigned can be reached at 619-224-4591 or peugh@sandiegoaudubon.org.

Respectfully,



James A. Peugh
Conservation Committee Chair

Cc:
Mr. John Robertus, Executive Director
RWQCB, SD Region (9)