

**State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region**

June 14, 2019

[please note – this item will not be heard before 12:00 pm]

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: Poseidon Water’s Proposed Huntington Beach Desalination Plant—Update on the Identified Need

Summary:

On March 15, 2016, Poseidon Water (Poseidon) submitted a request for a Water Code section 13142.5, subdivision (b) (section 13142.5(b)) determination for the proposed Huntington Beach Desalination Plant (HBDP). Then, on June 30, 2016, Poseidon submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the proposed HBDP (Order No. R8-2012-0007, NPDES No. CA8000403). Poseidon proposes to construct and operate the proposed HBDP on twelve acres located adjacent to the Applied Energy Services Huntington Beach Generating Station. The proposed HBDP would produce an average annual volume of 50 million gallons per day (mgd) of potable water using reverse osmosis. The treatment process would require an intake of seawater averaging 106.7 mgd and a discharge of wastewater brine averaging 56.69 mgd.

At the February 8, 2019 and March 22, 2019 board meetings, staff provided updates on the status of staff’s review of the proposed HBDP’s pending applications. During these presentations, staff provided the Regional Board with an overview of Water Code section 13142.5(b) and the implementing requirements specified in the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan). Section 13142.5(b) requires desalination facilities to use the best available site, design, technology, and mitigation feasible to minimize intake and mortality of all forms of marine life; the Ocean Plan provides the framework for the Regional Board to make its determination of whether a desalination facility complies with section 13142.5(b).

In evaluating whether the proposed HBDP location is the “best site feasible”, the Ocean Plan directs the Regional Board to evaluate, in part, if the identified need for desalinated water is consistent with applicable water planning documents. In the case of the proposed HBDP, the applicable water planning document is Municipal Water District of Orange County’s (MWDOC) 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

For this item, staff will summarize the MWDOC UWMP and provide a summary of staff’s recommendation on the identified need for the desalinated water.

Recommendation:

This is an information item - no action is required