

**DRAFT DETERMINATION TO APPROVE MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE WATER
QUALITY CONTROL POLICY ON THE USE OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE WATERS
FOR POWER PLANT COOLING (ONCE-THROUGH COOLING POLICY):**

HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERATING STATION

Interim Mitigation Requirements of the Once-Through Cooling Policy

The Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Policy requires owners or operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate interim impingement and entrainment impacts resulting from their cooling water intake structures. The interim mitigation period commenced on October 1, 2015, and continues up to and until owners or operators achieve final compliance with the OTC Policy. Section 2.C(3) of the Policy provides the following information for demonstrating compliance with interim mitigation:

- (a) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) that the owner or operator is compensating for the interim impingement and entrainment impacts through existing mitigation efforts, including any projects that are required by state or federal permits as of October 1, 2010; or
- (b) Demonstrate to the State Water Board's satisfaction that the interim impacts are compensated for by the owner or operator by providing funding to the California Coastal Conservancy which will work with the California Ocean Protection Council to fund an appropriate mitigation project; or
- (c) Develop and implement a mitigation project for the facility, approved by the State Water Board, which will compensate for the interim impingement and entrainment impacts.
- (d) Use the habitat production foregone (HPF) method, or comparable alternate method approved by the State Water Board in order to determine the habitat and area, based on replacement of the annual entrainment, for funding a mitigation project.
- (e) The State Water Board preference is that funding be provided to the California Coastal Conservancy, working with the California Ocean Protection Council, for mitigation projects directed toward increases in marine life associated with the State's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the geographic region of the facility.

In its April 1, 2011 Implementation Plan for compliance with the OTC Policy, AES-Southland, LLC (AES-Southland) proposed to comply with interim mitigation for its Huntington Beach Generating Station (Huntington Beach Station) by providing funding for mitigation projects directed towards increasing marine life in marine protected areas in the geographic region of the facility.

On August 18, 2015, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2015-0057 (2015 Resolution), delegating to its Executive Director the authority to approve proposed measures for power plant owners or operators to comply with interim mitigation on a case-by-case basis. The 2015 Resolution also includes procedures for calculating a mitigation payment for the power plants that have selected the interim mitigation option of providing funding to the Coastal Conservancy for appropriate mitigation projects. As described in the 2015 Resolution and consistent with the recommendations of the Expert Review Panel on minimizing and mitigating intake impacts from power plants and desalination facilities, the State Water Board calculated interim mitigation payments to equal the sum of three components: an entrainment payment, an impingement payment, and a management and monitoring payment.

Estimate of Interim Mitigation Payment for AES Southland's Huntington Beach Station

Entrainment Payment Calculation

To calculate the interim mitigation payment to offset entrainment impacts, staff used the default average cost of entrainment of \$4.60 per million gallons (MG) updated to 2016 dollars with a projection of one year for funding to be used in 2017. The updated average entrainment cost calculates to be \$4.73/MG as shown in Table 1.

To determine the intake flow volume, staff relied on data provided in AES's Southland letter¹ dated November 18, 2016. AES-Southland stated that the maximum intake volume at Huntington Beach Station for the interim mitigation period of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 was 56,151 MG. Verification of these volume data with the data submitted in the NPDES permit monitoring reports for Huntington Beach Station showed a miscalculation of the volume results as flows were erroneously mismatched from one month with the previous month. Staff corrected the error and calculated a total volume of 54,959.79 MG for the period of October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016.

The intake flow volume was further refined to account for existing mitigation. AES-Southland was previously required to mitigate for the improvement and preservation of 66.8 acres of area of HPF, which was required based on a previous operation of intake flow of 126,775 MGD or a total annual volume of 46,272.875 MG. This mitigation has been stipulated in Huntington Beach Station California Energy Commission license and order to operate since 2006. AES-Southland proposes that any volume of once-through-cooling flow in excess of 46,272.875 MG per year after October 1, 2015, should be used to calculate the mitigation costs.

¹ Letter from President Jennifer Didlo, AES-Southland, to Division of Water Quality Deputy Director Karen Larsen, State Water Board (Nov. 18, 2016) at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/powerplants/huntington_beach/docs/huntington_imf16.pdf

To estimate the entrainment payment, staff multiplied the remaining intake volume by the calculated average cost of entrainment.

$$(54,959.79 - 46,272.875) \text{ MG} \times \$4.73/\text{MG} = \$41,089.11$$

Impingement Payment Calculation

In the November 18, 2016 letter, AES-Southland provided an estimate of fish impingement biomass for units one through six from October 2015 to September 2016, totaling 2,370.8 lbs. AES-Southland calculated its estimate of fish impingement using the flow for 2015-2016 mitigation period and monthly average impingement rates that were calculated from 2011-2014 impingement data. Staff calculated the impingement payment using the estimated total pounds of fish impinged and the average indirect economic value of the fisheries as determined in the Expert Review Panel's final report of \$0.80 per pound.

Therefore, the impingement calculation is as follows:

$$\$0.80/\text{pound} \times 2,370.8 \text{ pounds} = \$1,896.64$$

Management and Monitoring Payment Calculation

Staff calculated the management and monitoring fee by taking twenty percent of the sum of the entrainment and impingement payments.

$$0.20 \times (\$41,089.11 + \$1,896.64) = \$8,597.15$$

State Water Board's Draft Determination for Huntington Beach Station

The sum of the amounts for entrainment, impingement, and management and monitoring equals approximately \$51 thousand dollars for the interim mitigation payment for Huntington Beach Station. AES-Southland shall be required to pay the amount of \$51,582.90 to fulfill the interim mitigation obligation for its Huntington Beach Station for the operating period of October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016.

$$\$41,089.11 + \$1,896.64 + \$8,597.15 = \$51,582.90$$

Table 1 Calculation of projected default entrainment cost for the 2015-2016 interim mitigation payment period.

Facility	Intake Volume (MGD)	APF (Acres)	Mitigation Type	Cost Estimate	Cost per Annual Intake (MG)	Notes	Years Between Assessment and 2016	Cost Escalator	Total Escalator	2016 Cost per MG	Estimated Half Life of the Project (Years)	Prorated 2016 Cost per MG	Estimated Cost at Time of Projection per MG	Estimated Annual Cost at Time of Projection per MG
Moss Landing Power Plant	360	840	Wetland	\$15,100,000	\$115	Based on max larval duration, dollars in year 2000	16	3.00%	\$1.60	\$184.41	30	\$184.41	\$189.94	\$6.33
Morro Bay Power Plant	371	760	Wetland	\$13,661,905	\$101	Based on max larval duration, dollars in year 2001	15	3.00%	\$1.56	\$157.18	30	\$157.18	\$161.90	\$5.40
Poseidon	304	37	Wetland	\$11,100,000	\$100	Based on max larval duration, dollars in year 2009 and cost per acre =300K (SONGS cost)	7	3.00%	\$1.23	\$123.03	30	\$123.03	\$126.72	\$4.22
Huntington Beach Generating Station	126.5	66	Wetland	\$4,927,560	\$107	Based on max larval duration, dollars in year 2009 and cost per acre =74.66K (from Davis et al report and final permit (acres))	7	3.00%	\$1.23	\$131.25	30	\$131.25	\$135.19	\$4.51
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant	2670	543	Rocky Reef	\$67,875,000	\$70	Based on 125K per acre (SONGS) in 2006	10	3.00%	\$1.344	\$93.60	30	\$93.60	\$96.41	\$3.21
							Average	3.00%				\$137.89	\$142.03	\$4.73

Table 1 is based on the table in Appendix 1 of Resolution No. 2015-0057, modified for the 2015-2016 interim mitigation payment period, including a cost escalation of 3.00% to account for inflation. For the calculation, the following parameters are set: the estimated life of a project is 30 years, the estimated period of continued operation is 30 years, the projection is one year, and the assessment percentage is 10.00%.