



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



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News Release – Regional Board/PG&E Agreement on Diablo Canyon

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached an agreement with PG&E to resolve receiving water impacts from the PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant cooling water system in San Luis Obispo County. The State Attorney General's Office, representing the Regional Board, is working with PG&E on final agreement language, but the highlights of the agreement are:

1. 2,013 acres of watersheds draining to approximately 5.7 miles of coastline will be preserved forever by a conservation easement for ecological purposes. The primary goal is protection of marine resources from Fields Cove to Coon Creek through watershed and habitat protection of all the lands draining to that coastline. In addition, PG&E will protect 547 acres draining to Coon Creek through Best Management Practices for as long as PG&E operates the plant or holds the property, whichever is longer.
2. PG&E will provide \$200,000 for an endowment to reimburse easement stewardship costs.
3. PG&E will provide \$4.05 million for projects to protect marine resources in the vicinity. The Regional Board will select projects that target marine resource enhancement and protection after soliciting proposals from agencies and the public.
4. PG&E's BioLab facilities will be available for ten years for marine education and research to educational organizations. PG&E will provide \$100,000 in initial operating money, as well as up to \$5,000 annually, for water and electricity during this period.
5. PG&E will provide \$350,000 for abalone restoration.
6. This settlement resolves cooling water system issues for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant over its operating life subject to compliance with thermal effluent limitations and changes in laws or regulations. Effluent monitoring will also continue. Any effluent limit violations will be enforceable as before this settlement.
7. With issue resolution, PG&E's receiving water monitoring program will be changed to consist of participating in the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (\$150,000/ yr for the next ten years).
8. A rough estimate of the total value of the settlement is \$16M to \$26M.

Regional Board Chairman Russell Jeffries said, "Coastline development runoff continues to threaten our near-shore waters. We can build new storm drains, but we can't produce more coastline. This settlement provides a fair resolution of the issues, and provides permanent preservation of marine resources along a significant portion of the Central Coast."

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California Environmental Protection Agency