

**DRAFT 2023-2024 DETERMINATION TO APPROVE MITIGATION MEASURES  
FOR THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY ON THE USE OF  
COASTAL AND ESTUARINE WATERS FOR POWER PLANT COOLING:**

**HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERATING STATION  
OCTOBER 1, 2023, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Interim Mitigation Requirements and Determinations

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling<sup>1</sup> (also known as the Once-Through Cooling or 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.

Resolution No. 2015-0057<sup>2</sup> originally described the procedures for calculating mitigation payments for Once-Through Cooling power plants. This resolution was consistent with the recommendations in the 2012 Expert Review Panel's Final Report.<sup>3</sup> On April 17, 2024, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-0014,<sup>4</sup> which revised the calculation to ensure annual payments continue to appropriately compensate for interim impacts to marine life based on current mitigation costs. Revisions to the interim mitigation calculation were based on findings in the 2023 Expert Review Panel's Final Report.<sup>5</sup>

The State Water Board approved AES-Southland's continued request to comply with the interim mitigation measures described in Section 2.C(3)(b) and Section 2.C(3)(e) of the OTC Policy in the Final Determination for Huntington Beach Generating Station for the October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023 interim mitigation period. Pursuant to this continued request, in the sections below, State Water Board staff calculated Huntington

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Board. 2010. [Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling](#). Sacramento, CA: State Water Board.

<sup>2</sup> State Water Board. 2015. [Resolution No. 2015-0057](#). Sacramento, CA: State Water Board.

<sup>3</sup> Cailliet, G.M. Callaway, J. Foster, M.S. Raimondi, P. Steinbeck, J. 2012. [Mitigation and Fees for the Intake of Seawater by Desalination and Power Plants](#) (2012 Expert Review Panel's Final Report). Sacramento, CA: State Water Board.

<sup>4</sup> State Water Board. 2024. [Resolution No. 2024-0014](#). Sacramento, CA: State Water Board.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Peter Raimondi. 2023. [Recommendations to Update the Interim Mitigation Cost Calculation for Once-Through Cooling Intake Use Leading to Marine Life Entrainment and Impingement](#) (2023 Expert Review Panel's Final Report). Sacramento, CA: State Water Board.

Beach Generating Station's interim mitigation payment for October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (also known as the 2023-2024 determination period). Consistent with Resolution No. 2024-0014, each interim mitigation payment is comprised of an entrainment payment, an impingement payment, and a management and monitoring payment.

#### Interim Mitigation Payment Calculation for Huntington Beach Generating Station

##### *Entrainment Payment Calculation*

To calculate the portion of the interim mitigation payment to offset entrainment impacts, State Water Board staff used the default cost of entrainment adjusted using a 3.1 percent escalator taken from California Department of Industrial Relations Consumer Price Index<sup>6</sup> to account for inflation, consistent with Resolution No. 2024-0014. As a result, the default cost of entrainment increased from \$12.51/Million Gallon (MG) to \$12.90/MG for the 2023-2024 determination period:

$$(\$12.51/\text{MG} \times 0.031) + \$12.51/\text{MG} = \$12.90/\text{MG}$$

In its June 12, 2025 letter to the State Water Board, AES-Southland provided the intake volume for Huntington Beach Generating Station for the 2023-2024 determination period of 18,371.15 MG. State Water Board staff verified the intake volume with the data submitted in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit monitoring reports for Huntington Beach Generating Station.

To calculate the entrainment payment, State Water Board staff multiplied the provided intake volume by the default cost of entrainment:

$$\$12.90/\text{MG} \times 18,371.15 \text{ MG} = \$236,987.84$$

In prior interim migration periods, AES-Southland received an intake flow credit for funding the improvement and preservation of 66.8 acres of area, as required by a previous California Energy Commission operating license. However, AES-Southland submitted a letter to the State Water Board's Executive Director on April 14, 2023, agreeing to end the use of this flow credit starting with the 2022-2023 interim mitigation period. Therefore, AES-Southland is required to pay the total cost of entrainment as determined above to comply with the OTC Policy and associated interim mitigation provisions.

##### *Impingement Payment Calculation*

To calculate the portion of the interim mitigation payment to offset impingement impacts, State Water Board staff used the default cost of impingement determined in Resolution No. 2024-0014, which is \$102.73 per pound of fish impinged. Consistent with Resolution No. 2024-0014, State Water Board staff then used a 3.1 percent escalator

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<sup>6</sup> California Department of Industrial Relations. 2025. [Consumer Price Index – California](#). San Francisco, CA: Department of Industrial Relations.

taken from California Department of Industrial Relations Consumer Price Index<sup>6</sup> to update the default cost of impingement to account for inflation. As a result, the default cost of impingement increased from \$102.73 per pound of fish impinged to \$105.91 per pound of fish impinged for the 2023-2024 determination period:

$$(\$102.73/\text{pound} \times 0.031) + \$102.73/\text{pound} = \$105.91/\text{pound}$$

In its June 12, 2025 letter to the State Water Board, AES-Southland provided an estimate of fish impingement biomass for Huntington Beach Generating Station for the 2023-2024 determination period of 0.29 pounds.

To calculate the impingement payment, State Water Board staff multiplied the provided pounds of fish impinged by the default cost of impingement:

$$\$105.91/\text{pound} \times 0.29 \text{ pounds} = \$30.71$$

#### *Management and Monitoring Payment Calculation*

State Water Board staff calculated the management and monitoring payment by taking twenty percent of the sum of the entrainment and impingement payments, as determined by Resolution No. 2024-0014:

$$0.20 \times (\$236,987.84 + \$30.71) = \$47,403.71$$

#### State Water Board's Draft Determination for Huntington Beach Generating Station

Based on the sum of the entrainment, impingement, and management and monitoring payment calculations, the total payment to fulfill the interim mitigation obligation for AES-Southland's Huntington Beach Generating Station for the interim mitigation period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, is \$284,422.26.

$$\$236,987.84 + \$30.71 + \$47,403.71 = \$284,422.26$$