5/4/10 Board Meeting Once Through Cooling Deadline: 4/13/10 by 12 noon

Environmental Health Coalition

COALICION de SALUD AMBIENTAL

401 Mile of Cars Way, Suite 310 ♦ National City, CA 91950 ♦ (619) 474-0220 • FAX: (619) 474-1210 ehc@environmentalhealth.org • www.environmentalhealth.org

April 13, 2010

Chairman and Members of the State Board State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Environmental Health Coalition Comments on Revised OTC Policy

Dear Chair and Members of the State Water Board:

Although Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is a signatory and supporter of the comments submitted by the California Coastkeepers, we would like to underscore a few points related to the South Bay Power Plant.

- The compliance date for the SBPP should be moved to 2010.
- The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has issued a tentative order recommending rescission of the last two units of the SBPP by December 31, 2010. This Order will be decided on at the May 12th Regional Board meeting. It is clear that the evidence supports a rescission of the permit by this date. Evidence is in the record demonstrating that the San Diego area has an excess of energy generation and SBPP is not needed.
- EHC strongly supports clarification language "N" in the Introduction section. This language is necessary to ensure that this policy about intake impacts does not get confused with the impacts of discharges of cooling water which are not covered by the policy. These discharges are damaging to surface waters and need to be fully regulated.
- State Board should not empower the California ISO to make decisions over our local water quality. The new sections allowing CAISO to unilaterally suspend compliance dates are completely inappropriate. CAISO is not a public governmental agency and should not be empowered to undermine environmental regulation. Our dealings with them locally have demonstrated that they do not operate in a transparent manner, do not reflect the input of impacted communities, and do not sufficiently plan ahead to meet their mission. Instead they cling to antiquated generation that impacts the environment and community health negatively and unnecessarily. They are an entity that needs more regulation and oversight—not given veto power over our environmental protections.

Sincerely,

Laura Hunter Laura Hunter, Director Clean Bay Campaign