12/14/10 Adoption Hearing
Once Through Cooling
Deadline: 11/19/10 by 12 noon



Andy Irons

Dear Chair Hoppin and Board Members,

I am writing with deep concerns about the health of California's marine life and coastal habitats. Our precious ocean is under numerous and growing threats. Ensuring healthy and robust bays, estuaries, coasts, and ocean will mean reducing or eliminating each of those multiple threats.

Your recent adoption of the "Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling" was an important and critical step towards restoring and protecting our marine environment, protecting the integrity of California's electrical grid, and encouraging clean energy for the future.

I adamantly oppose the recently proposed amendments to the Policy and request you immediately begin the task of enforcing the current Policy's goals and timelines with no changes to the Policy.

I applaud the Board for your five years of exhaustive independent research, coordination of multiple environmental and energy agencies, and extensive public outreach that resulted in a Policy that was fair and balanced. The final Policy met the difficult multiple goals of:

- eliminating unnecessary marine life mortality,
- fully protecting the state against disruption of electrical supply, and
- providing sufficient time and flexibility for power plant owners to prepare and transition to the "best available technology" for minimizing the ongoing destruction to marine life and habitats.

This issue was carefully and fully considered in the five years of thorough, exhaustive research and debate process that resulted in the adoption of the final Policy. The Clean Water Act mandated the changes incorporated in the final Policy almost four decades ago. The current amendments are nothing more than a thinly veiled effort by a powerful industry and their lobbyists to create even more loopholes and delays - efforts that were already heard and properly rejected by this Board.

Enough is enough. You should be commended for carrying out your duty under the Clean Water Act to thoroughly study a reasonable and balanced transition to avoid unnecessary marine life mortality through employing the "best technology" available for power plant cooling. This decision should stand.

By upholding the current language in the adopted Policy, you will have the deep gratitude and respect of the millions of Californians who care about our coast and ocean, and the generations of Californians to come who will surely reap the benefits of your work.

Sincerely,

Trica Hutchings
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