

November 9, 2015

PUBLICATION OF **FINAL** SUBSURFACE INTAKE FEASIBILITY REPORT  
(PHASE 2) FOR PROPOSED POSEIDON DESALINATION FACILITY, BY  
INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (ISTAP)

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Dear Interested Party,

Coastal Commission staff, Poseidon Water, and CONCUR, Inc. announce the publication of the above-referenced Report, which evaluates the feasibility of different intake methods for the proposed Poseidon Huntington Beach desalination facility.

The full 109 page Report, including a separate, additional set of Appendices, can be found at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/index.html>.

**Background:** As part of its review of a permit application from Poseidon Resources to construct and operate a desalination facility in Huntington Beach, the California Coastal Commission recommended that Poseidon undertake a more complete independent analysis of intake alternatives. Due to concerns over impacts on the coastal environment and marine ecosystems [Coastal Act Sections 30230 and 30231 in particular], the Commission recommended that Poseidon examine in more detail the feasibility of subsurface intakes that could be used by this proposed project.

**Impetus for the Panel:** In order to establish a review process that is responsive to the Commission's guidance and appropriately engages Poseidon, Commission staff and Poseidon agreed to convene an independent expert Panel to conduct a scientific and technical review.

**Phase 1 Report:** In the Phase 1 Report (available at: [http://coastal.ca.gov/pdf/ISTAP\\_Final\\_Phase1\\_Report\\_10-9-14.pdf](http://coastal.ca.gov/pdf/ISTAP_Final_Phase1_Report_10-9-14.pdf)), the Panel examined the technical feasibility of a variety of alternative subsurface intake technologies for the proposed desalination facility at this Huntington Beach location, with "technical feasibility" being defined as "able to be built and operated using currently available methods." Based on the site's geologic, hydrogeologic, and other characteristics, the Phase 1 Report identified two potential alternative technologies as feasible at this location: the Seafloor Infiltration Gallery (SIG) and the Beach Infiltration Gallery (BIG).

**Initiation of Phase 2 Report:** At the end of Phase 1, the Conveners considered the Report and agreed to initiate a second phase. The makeup of the Panel was modified to address the scope of work for Phase 2.

During Phase 2, the Panel characterized the environmental, economic, and social feasibility of the options deemed technically feasible during Phase 1. The objectives for Phase 2 were:

- Investigate whether offshore and beach infiltration galleries could be a feasible method to provide water to Poseidon's proposed desalination facility at or near the Huntington Beach site.
- Investigate at what scale those intake methods could feasibly be sited and operated at or near the Huntington Beach site.

**Structure of the ISTAP Process:** Commission staff and Poseidon characterize this as a joint fact-finding process intended to illuminate technical issues and inform the eventual permit review decision by the Commission. Both Poseidon and the Commission agreed to engage CONCUR, Inc. as the convener and facilitator of this process. CONCUR has extensive experience in designing and convening processes of this kind and in marine and coastal resource management issues both in California and nationally.

All panelists were jointly selected by mutual agreement by Commission staff and Poseidon. Panelists include experts in engineering, subsurface intake design, geology, geochemistry, hydrogeology, resource and environmental economics, and environmental review.

Please direct any questions to CONCUR, Inc.

**Citation of the Document:** This document should be cited as:

Independent Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (ISTAP), *Phase 2 Report: Feasibility of Subsurface Intake Designs for the Proposed Poseidon Water Desalination Facility at Huntington Beach, California*, prepared through CONCUR Inc. for California Coastal Commission and Poseidon Water, 2015.

**Use of the Review:** The Panel's final Report will be part of the documentation used by Commission staff to prepare its recommendation to the Commission regarding the proposed project. The Panel's final Reports will be part of the Commission's record for Poseidon's permit application.

The Conveners again emphasize that the Report provides a site-specific and project-specific evaluation and should not be considered determinative for other projects or locations. The Report is also not meant to provide a CEQA-level review and does not represent the full review needed to determine Coastal Act or Ocean Plan conformity.

**Next Steps and Timeline:**

The Conveners and CONCUR are also conducting a parallel independent review to determine what effects intake wells located along the shore near Poseidon's proposed site would have on the nearby Orange County groundwater basin. This review is expected to be completed by December 2015. The Conveners will decide after Phase 2 whether to conclude the ISTAP or whether to conduct additional studies and review.

Sincerely,  
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