



California Coastal Commission

455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105-2421
Voice (415) 904-5200
Fax (415) 904-5400
www.coastal.ca.gov

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

Coastal Commission Hearing on Doheny Desalination Project

What is the Doheny Desalination Project?

The South Coast Water District is proposing to build and operate a desalination facility in the City of Dana Point that would include several wells within Doheny State Beach. The project would provide water to ratepayers throughout the District's nearby service area and would reduce the area's reliance on water imported from other parts of the state that is delivered through pipelines from northern Orange County. The proposal uses several design elements preferred under the state's Ocean Plan for seawater desalination facilities because they are meant to avoid or reduce potential impacts to marine life and water quality.

What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for the people. The Commission does this by looking at how development affects the environment and public coastal access. Agency staff makes recommendations to the Commissioners, who take a final vote.

When will the Commission make a decision about the Doheny Desal Project?

On Thursday, October 13, 2022, the Commission will hold a public hearing in person in San Diego and over Zoom about the Doheny Desalination proposal. The Commission will hear from its staff, government representatives, and members of the public. The Commission is expected to vote on whether to approve or deny the project. The public hearing is an opportunity to make your voice heard on the proposed project. All are welcome.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

Staff is currently analyzing the application to prepare a recommendation to the Commission that will be based on whether the project is consistent with requirements of the Coastal Act. Staff's review will address key issues such as the project's potential impacts on public access and recreation and its ability to avoid or withstand any coastal hazards such as erosion, tsunamis, and sea level rise. Staff is also evaluating if there are ways to reduce any impacts on the environment. Staff's recommendation will be published several weeks before the October hearing to allow the public to review it and provide comments for the Commission to consider.

How does this affect me?

You may be affected if you live within the District's service area and may pay the higher costs for water from the project or if you use Doheny State Beach for coastal access and recreation.

How can I participate?

- Email comments to tom.luster@coastal.ca.gov
- Mail comments to 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Speak virtually at the October 13, 2022 meeting by filling out a speaker slip: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/request-testimony/special-hearing/>
- For questions, contact Noaki Schwartz, Public Information Officer at 562-833-5487 or Noaki.Schwartz@Coastal.Ca.Gov