



California Coastal Commission

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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

Coastal Commission Hearing on proposed Poseidon Huntington Beach Desalination Project

What is the proposed Poseidon Huntington Beach Desalination Project?

Poseidon Water proposes to build a seawater desalination facility within the AES power plant property in Huntington Beach. Poseidon expects to produce up to 50 million gallons per day of drinking water and sell the water to the Orange County Water District, the City of Huntington Beach, and possibly other nearby water districts.

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 proposed development will affect 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 Poseidon Desalination Project?

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing that will occur in-person and via Zoom on May 12, 2022. All interested members of the public will have the opportunity to provide written or verbal comments in person or over Zoom about the proposed project and about whether the Commission should approve or deny the proposal.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

This project raises significant and complex coastal protection policy issues under both the Coastal Act and the City's Local Coastal Program. This includes conformity with policies that require protection of marine life, water quality, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, and policies meant to avoid or minimize hazards associated with sea level rise, floods, tsunamis, and geologic hazards. It also raises significant issues related to potential effects on environmental justice communities, although the lack of information about the ultimate buyer of and cost for Poseidon's water made it impossible to fully assess these effects. For these reasons staff has recommended denial on this project. The 12-voting member Commission will consider this recommendation and is expected to take a final vote on the application in May. The Commission has approved six other coastal desalination facilities in the past.

How does this affect me?

You may be affected if you use the Huntington Beach coastal resources, such as nearby wetlands or coastal waters. You may also be affected if your community's water district purchases the desalination facility's water and increases their water rates to reflect the higher costs of Poseidon's water. You may also be affected if California doesn't find sufficient new sources of water, which could lead to cutbacks and rate increases. You may also be affected by the project's construction and operation, including noise, increased truck traffic, the mitigation measures needed to avoid or reduce the project's impacts, and others.

How can I participate?

- Review the staff report for the proposed project at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/PoseidonHB>
- Email comments to: HuntingtonBeachDesalComments@coastal.ca.gov
- Mail comments to 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
- **Participate in the public hearing on May 12, 2022** for Item 9a:
 - **Virtual (Zoom) meeting procedures:** <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/virtual-hearing/VIRTUAL-HEARING-PROCEDURES.pdf>
 - **In person location:** Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, Fountain Terrace Room, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
 - For Spanish interpretation requests, email Erik.Martinez@coastal.ca.gov and Javier.Padilla@coastal.ca.gov by May 6th, 2022.

For questions, contact Noaki Schwartz, Public Information Officer at 562-833-5487 or Noaki.Schwartz@coastal.ca.gov