



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 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?

Poseidon's application to the Commission for a coastal development permit is not yet complete; however, Commission staff expects that Poseidon could complete its application in time to schedule a Commission hearing on the proposal by the end of the year. Commission meetings for the rest of 2021 will likely be held virtually via Zoom, but will include opportunities for all interested members of the public to provide written or verbal comments about the proposed project and about whether the Commission should approve or deny the proposal.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

Because the application is not yet complete, staff has not yet developed its recommendation to the Commission as to whether the project should be approved, approved with changes or additional mitigation, or denied. However, issues of concern that staff will evaluate include the proposed project's location in an area subject to several coastal hazards (including seismic, tsunami, flooding, and sea level rise), as well as whether the facility will be able to avoid or adapt to those impacts. Commission staff will also evaluate the proposal's adverse impacts on marine life, wetlands, and sensitive wildlife species and how to mitigate for those impacts, and the project's potential to disturb contaminants within the underlying and nearby soil and groundwater. Staff will also evaluate the environmental justice aspects of the proposed project, such as potentially higher water rates and other environmental impacts that may disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities.

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 application and related materials at the Commission's website for the proposed project: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/PoseidonHB>
- Email comments to: CoastalHuntingtonBeachDesalComments@coastal.ca.gov
- Mail comments to 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105

The Commission's staff report will be available at the Commission's website several weeks before the scheduled public hearing. For questions, contact Noaki Schwartz, Public Information Officer at 562-833-5487 or Noaki.Schwartz@coastal.ca.gov



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