

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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July 17, 2003

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Public

From: Alfred L. Wanger, Deputy Director
Alison Dettmer, Manager, Energy and Ocean Resources Unit
Tom Luster, Energy and Ocean Resources Unit

Re: **Announcement of Draft Update of Report on Seawater Desalination in California and Public Comment Period.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY

On August 7, 2003, staff will present to the Commission a report on seawater desalination along the California coast. The report is an update of Commission staff's 1993 report titled "Seawater Desalination in California", and reflects the recent increased interest in constructing and operating seawater desalination facilities along the California coast.

The updated report is meant to serve several purposes:

- To provide general information about the issues related to desalination along the California coast;
- To discuss Coastal Act policies that are likely to apply to various proposed desalination facilities;
- To identify information that is likely to be required during coastal development permit review for proposed facilities; and,
- To identify the existing and known proposed facilities along the coast.

Staff's presentation to the Commission will also serve as the start of a sixty-day public comment period on the report. Copies of the report will be available at the Commission meeting, on the Commission's website at www.coastal.ca.gov, or may be requested from the address below. Comments received during this period will be evaluated for inclusion in a final report to be issued later this year. Written comments should be sent by October 6, 2003 to:

Tom Luster
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

or via e-mail to: tluster@coastal.ca.gov

The report is being coordinated with several other desalination-related efforts in California, including the update of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, which is considering conditions to apply to desalination intakes and outfalls, and the efforts of a state task force convened by the Department of Water Resources to identify opportunities and constraints regarding the role of desalination in contributing to the state's water supply.