

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
 FAX (415) 904-5400

**F 4****ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT**

FOR THE

**AUGUST 12, 2011 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director**  
**Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency**

**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>E-11-007-W</b> Southern California Gas Co.	After-the-fact approval for installation of 62 seismic supports, placement and removal of soil, and shift of project footprint by 90 linear feet.	Playa del Rey Storage Field City of Los Angeles

**IMMATERIAL AMENDMENT**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>E-09-004-A4</b> Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)	Extend an existing outfall and diffuser approximately 100 feet seaward within an existing jetty, and allow an additional year of operations for a pilot desalination facility.	Doheny State Beach City of Dana Point



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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**  
**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

**DATE:** July 28, 2011 **PERMIT NO. E-11-007-W**

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit, pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

**Applicant:** Don Houston  
Southern California Gas Company  
555 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. GT16G3  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

**Background and Project Description:** On February 16, 2007, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission issued to the Southern California Gas Company (SCG) De Minimis Waiver E-06-017-W to install a natural gas dehydration system and associated pipes and support equipment at its Playa del Rey storage field within the coastal zone of the City of Los Angeles. During the course of these installation activities, SCG modified several aspects of the project to conform to the City of Los Angeles' seismic safety requirements. These modifications, which were not reported to Coastal Commission staff until after implementation, deviated substantially from the activities authorized by the Executive Director in De Minimis Waiver E-06-017-W. The modifications included: (1) the installation of 62 14-inch square by 32-foot to 45-foot long reinforced concrete piles with a diesel powered pile driver; (2) the expansion of the project footprint by 2,400 square feet; (3) the removal of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of soil and placement of an additional 2,000 cubic yards of soil; and (4) a 90-foot lateral shift in the location of the project footprint. SCG is currently seeking after-the-fact authorization for these unpermitted development activities.

**Waiver Rationale:** For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- All project activities were sited within an existing paved industrial facility. SCG implemented erosion control and water quality best management practices. Oil and

hazardous material spill prevention and response equipment was maintained on site for the duration of project construction activities and the existing spill prevention control and countermeasure plan for the SCG Playa del Rey Storage Field were revised and updated to include specific measures to address the operation of the dehydration system. No spills were reported during the installation and construction of the project.

- The site already contains large storage tanks and other industrial equipment. The proposed equipment shall be painted a dull green color to match existing equipment at the site, which blends closely with existing vegetation. Installing the additional equipment will blend into the already industrial visual characterization of the site and will not cause new adverse visual coastal impacts.

**Important:** This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of August 10-12, 2011 in Watsonville, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS  
Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
ALISON DETTMER  
Deputy Director

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT****E-09-004-A4**

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**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director

**DATE:** August 1, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Application to amend coastal development permit No. E-09-004 granted to the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to construct and operate a desalination test well and facility at Doheny State Beach, Orange County.

The Executive Director has determined that the requested project change described herein may be approved as an immaterial amendment to the above-referenced coastal development permit (CDP). The amendment would allow MWDOC to: 1) operate its test facility for an additional year (until May 31, 2013); and, 2) extend its outfall and diffuser along an existing rock revetment. Both would occur at Doheny State Beach in the City of Dana Point.

**Background and Project Description:** On June 11, 2009, the Commission approved CDP No. E-09-004 allowing MWDOC to construct and operate a test slant beach well and pilot desalination facility adjacent to San Juan Creek at Doheny State Beach. The project included installing a slant beach well that produces water collected from under the seafloor, a mobile testing lab, and associated piping, tanks, and similar structures. The project involves pump testing the well to determine its likely production capacity, to identify any response of nearby surface and subsurface waters to the pumping, and to conduct various water treatment tests. The project pumps up to about 2100 gallons per minute, which, after testing, is discharged within a rock revetment on Doheny State Beach subject to conditions of the project's NPDES permit. The Commission's initial approval authorized project operations through May 31, 2012.

The Commission later approved three immaterial amendments to the permit. In July 2010, the Commission allowed MWDOC to conduct a dye study in the waters and substrate of San Juan Creek; in September 2010, the Commission allowed MWDOC to conduct core sampling offshore of the beach to better characterize subsurface conditions; and in January 2011, the Commission allowed MWDOC to install and operate additional test equipment at the facility.

**Requested Amendment:** MWDOC proposes first, to operate its facility for an additional year; and second, to extend its existing outfall and diffuser within the revetment about one hundred feet seaward. The outfall and diffuser were initially sited so the project discharge would be rapidly dispersed within the revetment and the adjacent surf; however, a large storm event (a "50-year" storm) in December 2010 resulted in a relatively large sand berm separating the discharge point from the surf zone. MWDOC would temporarily remove rock from the revetment, install the piping, outfall, and diffuser, and replace the rock. Work is expected to take

about five days. The work would be subject to applicable conditions of previous Commission approvals and the project's NPDES permit. State Parks, which has expressed support of the project, is expected to modify the project's Right-of-Entry permit to allow the proposed work.

**Findings:** The proposed amendment has been deemed "immaterial" for the following reasons:

- **Water Quality and Marine Biological Resources:** The change in outfall location would result in the project discharge to be into the same type of aquatic environment as originally evaluated and approved by the Commission, would remain within the discharge limits established in the project's NPDES permit, and would be subject to the Commission's previously approved water quality, spill prevention, and marine life protection requirements. The additional one-year test period would allow continuance of the same activities as previously approved and conditioned by the Commission.
- **Public Access and Recreation:** The proposed project is expected to result in only *de minimis* public access and recreation effects. Installation work would occur on a lesser used area of the beach adjacent to existing riprap over about five days, and would be subject to any timing restrictions imposed by State Parks to avoid or reduce impacts to the public.

### ***Immaterial Permit Amendment***

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations—Title 14, Division 5.5, Volume 19, section 13166(b)—the Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office within ten (10) working days of mailing said notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive and the amendment shall be approved.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three (3) Commissioners object to the executive director's designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c). Otherwise, the immaterial amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c).

If you wish to register an objection to this notice, please send the objection in writing to Tom Luster at the above address. If you have any questions, you may contact him at (415) 904-5248 or via email at [tluster@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:tluster@coastal.ca.gov).