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islature ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

12/14/10 Adoption Hearing Once Through Cooling Deadline: 11/19/10 by 12 noon

CHAIR, UTILITIES AND COMMERCE APPROPRIATIONS HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SWRCB EXECUTIVE

SELECT COMMITTEES CHAIR, PROCUREMENT RE-ENTRY

November 18, 2010

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, Ca 95814

VIA E-Mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Proposed Amendments to the Statewide Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Subject:

Plant Cooling

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) proposed amendments to the Statewide Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Policy) released on September 27, 2010. Staff of the SWRCB has done a remarkable job in balancing the various concerns and competing interests to develop the current Policy. I further appreciate the SWRCB's willingness to discuss with the regulated community some of the Policy's requirements in lieu of addressing these concerns through the legislation I introduced earlier this year.

It is my understanding that the proposed amendments to the Policy would allow utilities such as the LADWP to continue the use of once through cooling (OTC) for newly repowered, highly efficient facilities for the remainder of their useful lives as long as the environmental impacts from that OTC usage were either controlled with technology installations or mitigated. The proposed amendments to the Policy also allow for a compliance deadline beyond the current December 31, 2020 date for utilities that commit to eliminating OTC usage upon repowering their existing units with an accompanying commitment to implement appropriate interim technology and environmental mitigation. This would appear to both further the goal of the Policy to reduce and eliminate the environmental impacts of OTC on our marine resources and to allow utilities to phase in the cost of replacing there existing systems in a balanced and methodical way that does not financially burden their ratepayers during these difficult economic times.

These Policy amendments are a fair and workable pathway to both ensure the protection of our marine resources and protect the state's residents and businesses from the significant rate increases that would be needed to implement the currently adopted Policy provisions.

I urge you to adopt the amendments to the Policy as proposed on September 27, 2010.

Sincerely,

cc:

TEVEN C. BRADFORD Assemblymember, 51st District

> Charles R. Hoppin, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board Arthur G. Baggett Jr., Member, State Water Resources Control Board Tam M. Doduc, Member, State Water Resources Control Board