

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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February 3, 2003

**NOTICE OF TECHNICAL REVIEW WORKSHOP
for the
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION MITIGATION PROJECTS**

A public workshop will be conducted by Coastal Commission staff and contract scientists to review the status of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) wetland restoration and artificial reef mitigation projects. The workshop will consist of two parts that are open to all: a **technical session** during the day that will focus on specific scientific issues and allow in-depth discussion on the monitoring and evaluation of the wetland and artificial reef mitigation projects, and a **general session** in the evening that will report on the status of the mitigation projects and present the general results of the Commission's monitoring program with substantial time allotted for public questions and comments. A preliminary draft agenda for the workshop is attached.

The workshop will be held on:

February 24, 2003

Technical session: 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM (there will be no lunch break)

General session: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

City of San Clemente Community Center

100 North Calle Seville

San Clemente, California

For more information, please contact Jody Loeffler at 415-904-5255 (or email at jloeffler@coastal.ca.gov) or Dan Reed at 805-893-7047 (or email at reed@lifesci.ucsb.edu).

BACKGROUND

Four mitigation projects are required as conditions of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) coastal development permit for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 (permit no. 6-81-330A, formerly 183-73). The conditions originally were adopted by the Commission in 1991 to mitigate the adverse impacts of the power plant on the marine environment. The 1991 conditions also require SCE to provide the funds necessary for Commission staff's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects, to be carried out by independent contract scientists under the direction of the Executive Director.

In 1993, the Commission added a requirement for the permittee to partially fund construction of an experimental fish hatchery. Due to its experimental nature, the Commission did not assign mitigation credit to the hatchery requirement.

In 1997 after extensive review of new kelp impact studies, the Commission revised the kelp mitigation requirements. With the inclusion of those amendments, the required mitigation now

includes: (1) creation or restoration of at least 150 acres of tidal wetland in southern California, (2) installation of fish barrier devices at the power plant, (3) construction of an artificial reef large enough to sustain 150 acres of medium to high density kelp bed community, together with funding for a mariculture/marine fish hatchery, and (4) provision of funds for the Commission's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The Commission's technical oversight and independent monitoring program provides for periodic public review of the performance of the SONGS mitigation projects.

The mitigation projects have progressed to a point where it is useful to convene a public workshop to review their status and report on monitoring results. Planning for the wetland creation/restoration project is continuing and pre-restoration monitoring is underway. The experimental portion of the kelp reef was constructed in September 1999 and the third year of the five-year monitoring program has been completed. The workshop will provide information on the status of the projects and monitoring results, help identify problems, and make recommendations for solving them. The Commission staff will use the information presented in carrying out its oversight and monitoring of the mitigation projects.

It is the Commission's intention that the review workshop be attended by representatives of the State and Federal resource agencies, local government representatives, scientists interested in restoration and monitoring programs, and the general public. The workshop will be conducted by the Commission staff and contract scientists. Representatives from SCE and its consultants and members of the Commission's Scientific Advisory Panel also will be on hand to provide further scientific viewpoints on the mitigation projects and oversight and monitoring program.

Preliminary Draft Agenda

Third Annual Public Workshop
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Mitigation Project
Monday, February 24, 2003
San Clemente Community Center

TECHNICAL SESSION: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

12:00 Introduction

Presentations by Commission contract scientists:

12:10 Status of wetland pre-restoration monitoring

12:25 Status of experimental reef results

12:40 Questions / discussion

1:00 Technical aspects of the following topics:

- Selection of sites used for reference in wetland restoration
- Patterns of sea fan colonization on the artificial reef and efforts to document it
- Reef fish variability and sampling design
- Effect size, statistical power and sampling effort for the experimental reef and wetland
- Statistical methods for estimating similarity in evaluating performance standards

Each topic will include a short presentation by the Commission contract scientists on the status of the previous year's activities (including any problems and recommendations for solving them), and the work planned for next year, followed by a round table discussion.

5:00 Adjourn

GENERAL SESSION: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

7:00 Presentations on Coastal Commission's oversight and independent monitoring of:

- Wetland restoration project (status of planning and pre-restoration monitoring)
- Fish barrier program
- Experimental kelp reef project and beach monitoring

8:00 Questions / discussion

9:00 Adjourn