

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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April 6, 2009

**NOTICE OF TECHNICAL REVIEW WORKSHOP  
for the  
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS)  
REEF MITIGATION PROJECT**

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) artificial reef mitigation project. *The workshop is not a public hearing, and no regulatory decisions on the project will be made at the workshop.*

The workshop is open to all and will consist of presentations on the construction of the Phase 2 mitigation reef (Wheeler North Reef) and review of the “as-built” status, reef colonization and Commission monitoring program.

The workshop will be held on:

April 27, 2009

1:00 PM to 5:00 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 ([jloeffler@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:jloeffler@coastal.ca.gov)) or Dan Reed at 805-893-8363 ([reed@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto: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 Commission originally adopted the conditions 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.

A five-year monitoring program on the Phase 1 experimental portion of the artificial reef mitigation project was completed in December 2004. SCE then began the process of designing the Phase 2 mitigation reef, resulting in Commission approval of the Final Plan and Coastal Development Permit (#E-07-010) for the Phase 2 mitigation reef, also known as Wheeler North Reef (WNR) on February 12, 2008. Construction of the Phase 2 mitigation reef began in June 2008 and was completed on September 12, 2008. A final construction report was submitted to the Commission in November 2008.

The public workshop will provide an opportunity to review the status of the mitigation reef. The workshop will include a presentation by SCE on the construction process, and reviews by Commission staff on the "as built" status and current state of reef colonization as well as a discussion on the Commission's monitoring program and potential effects resulting from enactment of the Marine Life Protection Act. *The workshop is not a public hearing, nor will regulatory decisions be made on the mitigation project at the workshop.* The Commission staff will use information from the workshop in carrying out its oversight and monitoring of the mitigation project.

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 project and oversight and monitoring program.