

Public Meeting Brine Disposal Expert Panel

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Division of Water Quality

Ocean Unit

Ocean Plan Amendment Issue 4 Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal

- Desalination brine and salinity objective was covered at the 2007 Ocean Plan Amendment scoping meeting
- Triennial Review Workplan adopted on March 15, 2011
 - **Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal amendment, very high priority, targeted for 2012**

Desalination Facilities & Brine Disposal

- Preliminary Staff Approaches:
 - Narrative water quality objective: Salinity not to exceed x% of natural background
 - Implementation – compliance at edge of ZID
 - Intakes to prevent or minimize Impingement and Entrainment
 - Water Code: “Best site, design, technology and mitigation”
 - Mitigation for residual impacts after best technology is employed

Some other factors to address:

- Discharges to enclosed bays
- Wastewater treatment RO reject
- Brackish groundwater treatment brine discharged via co-mingling with wastewater
- Intakes from impaired waters (e.g. enclosed bays) for ocean disposal

Three Studies to Inform Policy:

- Intakes: Expert Review Panel
 - what is best mitigation approach?
 - will report on status today
- Brine Toxicity (laboratory)
 - Information to inform a salinity objective
 - will report on status today
- Brine Disposal Expert Panel (today's meeting)

Next Steps

- Second CEQA Scoping Meeting (to address enclosed bay discharges and intakes) in March 2012
 - Expect scoping document February 2012
- Complete Studies (March 2012)
- Board level workshop in May 2012 (possibly associated with a scientific symposium)

Policy Development Steps

- Prepare Draft Substitute Environmental Document and Draft Amendments
 - Ocean Plan
 - Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan
- External Peer Review
- Public Hearing July or August 2012
- Response to Public Comments
- Consideration for Adoption at a State Board Meeting before end of 2012
 - Staff recommends but State Board decides