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**FACT SHEET AND REMINDER OF PUBLIC HEARING
August 2018**

**TENTATIVE TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR NRG CALIFORNIA SOUTH LP MANDALAY GENERATING STATION (NPDES NO. CA0001180, CI No. 2093)
393 North Harbor Boulevard, Oxnard, California**

This fact sheet has been prepared by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board or Board), a state agency that is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), to inform community members and other interested parties about the Board's plans to move forward with consideration of the termination of the Mandalay Generating Station's (MGS or the Facility) NPDES permit. This item will be considered by the Regional Water Board at a public hearing, which will be held during the Board's regularly scheduled September 13, 2018 meeting. The Board meeting will begin at 9:00 A.M. at the Ventura County Government Center Hearing Room, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA, as previously noticed.

Information about steps being taken to address residents' concerns about water quality and protection of the beneficial uses of Channel Islands Harbor (CIH) upon termination of the permit are also outlined in this fact sheet.

Facility Background

MGS is a natural gas-fired steam electric generating facility, which began operating in 1959 and ceased operating in March 2018. The Facility used a once-through cooling (OTC) system to cool the steam after it passed through the generating station's turbines. The water for the OTC system was withdrawn from Edison Canal, a channel which extends approximately 2½ miles from the facility to CIH. CIH was created in 1965 by expanding Edison Canal for a marina and a new outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

During its operation, MGS discharged once-through cooling water, other in-plant wastes, and stormwater to a concrete and rock discharge structure on Mandalay Beach and then into the Pacific Ocean. At maximum capacity, MGS was permitted to discharge up to 255.3 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater. Most recently MGS has not been operating continuously, and has been discharging at a level considerably less than the permitted amount. As a result, the pumping rate from the canal and the discharge volume to the ocean has been much less in recent years.



Why the Permit is Being Terminated

NRG California South LP (NRG) permanently ended its operation of MGS and the permitted wastewater discharges, which include cooling water discharges, from the facility on March 29, 2018. On June 25, 2018, the Regional Water Board conducted a site inspection and verified that facility operations and wastewater discharges to surface water had stopped. The OTC system's water intake pumps and associated piping have been disconnected and the ends plugged, eliminating the withdrawal of water from Edison Canal and eliminating all wastewater discharges into the ocean.

Since NRG ceased operation of the Facility and is no longer discharging wastewater to the ocean, its individual NPDES permit is no longer required by the federal Clean Water Act. The Board cannot require NRG to maintain its individual NPDES permit coverage for wastewater discharges if it is not discharging wastewater to the ocean. The Board also does not have the authority to require that NRG or a third party continue to operate the water pumps in the canal.

Channel Islands Harbor Water Quality & Next Steps

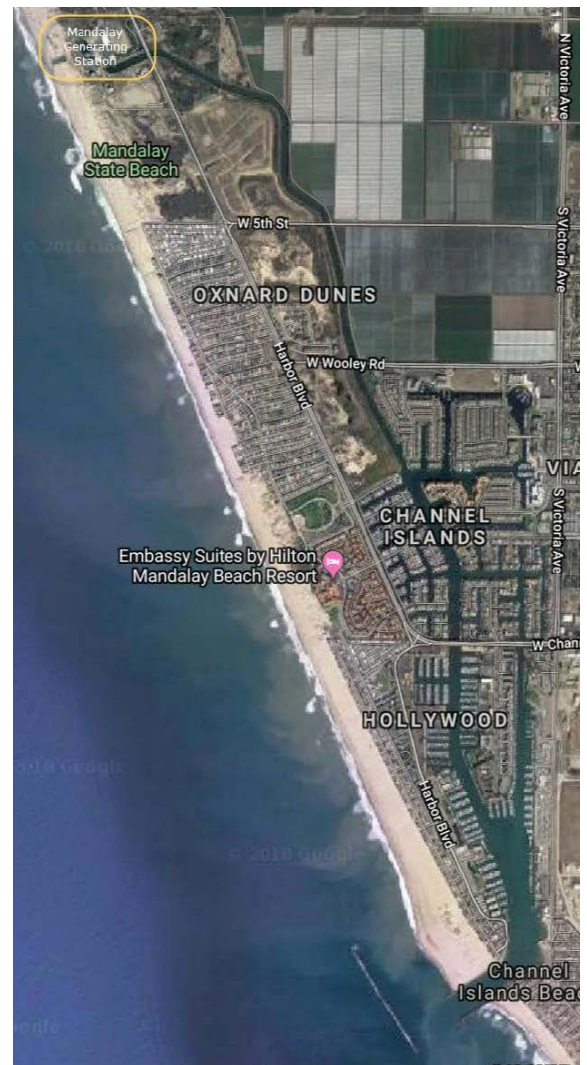
The Regional Water Board acknowledges the concerns of residents regarding potential water quality impacts from the discontinuation of pumping by MGS. Board staff have been communicating with the City of Oxnard as well as some residents and their representatives about these concerns. The potential water quality impacts were also considered in an environmental study and in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Seabridge Project in the early 2000s. The study found that water quality could be degraded following closure of the MGS. As a result, the City of Oxnard, County and OLY Mandalay General Partnership, the Seabridge Project developer, put in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that contains provisions to fund and implement measures to mitigate any such impacts.

The City of Oxnard is already taking actions to assess and mitigate any water quality impacts, including:

- Frequent sampling for dissolved oxygen, bacteria, pH, temperature and salinity at 25 sites within CIH since late June. (See below for a link to the data.)
- Installation of six aerators in the Seabridge residential area on July 26. The City is in the process of studying the effect of these devices on water quality in CIH.
- Amended a contract for the services of USC professor in oceanography and a biologist to evaluate conditions in CIH and potential mitigation measures.
- Developed a study plan to determine if irrigated agricultural discharges to Edison Canal are contributing to elevated nutrient levels in CIH.

The City presented initial results of sampling and the response plan to the public at a meeting on July 11, 2018. Data showed dissolved oxygen levels returning to an acceptable level of 5 mg/L or greater.

The Board remains committed to appropriate actions to evaluate and address water quality concerns and to ensure protection of water quality and beneficial uses in CIH, and will continue to work closely with the City of Oxnard and the County to monitor conditions in CIH.



Information Repositories and Contacts

Project-related documents and reports are available for the public to view online at the following link:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/individual/npdes/NRG_California_South_LP/Mandalay/index.html

The water quality monitoring data collected by the City of Oxnard are available at:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=636cb6231b4444d19cb1f0e30b2d7934&extent=6180154.1812%2C1882662.4135%2C6205487.5145%2C1896612.4135%2C102645>

Complete administrative files for the MGS NPDES permit are available at the Regional Water Board's office:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90013

For an appointment to view files, please call (213) 576-6636 or email

RB4-PublicRecords@waterboards.ca.gov

For more information, or if you have questions about this site, please contact the Regional Water Board.

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