Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report No. 10-001 for the Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach

The City of Huntington Beach has prepared draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) No. 10-001 for the proposed Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach. The draft SEIR includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with construction and implementation of the project. An unavoidable significant impact has been identified in regards to short term construction-related air quality and indirect growth inducement.

The SEIR will be available for public review and comment for 45 days, commencing Thursday May 6, 2010 and ending Monday June 21, 2010. Written comments on the draft SEIR must be submitted to Ricky Ramos, City of Huntington Beach Department of Planning and Building, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California 92648 and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday June 21, 2010, in order to be considered prior to the City’s final determination on the project. A copy of the draft SEIR is on file at the following locations:

City of Huntington Beach Department of Planning and Building, 2000 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Huntington Beach;
City of Huntington Beach City Clerk’s Office, 2000 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Huntington Beach;
Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach;
Banning Branch Library, 9281 Banning Avenue, Huntington Beach; and
on the City’s website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/poseidon.cfm

Project Description:

The project, proposed by Poseidon Resources Corporation, consists of the construction and operation of a 50 million gallon per day seawater desalination facility within the City of Huntington Beach. The proposed desalination project would consist of seawater intake system, pretreatment facilities, a seawater desalination facility utilizing reverse osmosis technology, post-treatment facilities, product water storage, chemical storage, electrical substation, on- and off-site booster pump stations, and 48- to 54-inch diameter product water transmission pipelines in Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa.

The proposed project includes Entitlement Plan Amendment No.10-001 to amend Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 02-004 and Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 02-005 approved by the City Council in 2006. The project also includes a parcel map to facilitate development of a desalination facility. Since the time that the 2005 Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (REIR) was certified and CUP No. 02-004 and CDP No. 02-005 approved, certain changes have been proposed, as outlined below:

- Changes in operational assumptions primarily related to seawater intake. The 2005 REIR analyzed seawater intake effects (and certain other potential impacts of the project) based on reasonably foreseeable operational characteristics of the Huntington Beach Generating Station (HBGS). Under that scenario, a co-located condition, the desalination facility would draw source water from the discharge of the HBGS, after potential impacts associated with the HBGS intake have already occurred. However, future conditions could include cessation or reduction of the existing power plant’s historic seawater intake. Therefore, in addition to addressing the potential impacts of the project based on a co-located condition, this SEIR also addresses seawater intake effects (and certain other potential impacts of the project) based on a “stand-alone” condition, where the desalination facility would be responsible for direct intake of seawater.
- Changes in location and size of project components. The project has been revised to relocate and reorient certain features of the project, including modifications to the previously approved site plan, floor plans,
elevations, and project site boundaries within the HBGS facility. A portion of the revised project is also now proposed to be located on a City owned parcel abutting the HBGS facility.

- Changes in the route and the pipeline design for the Delivery Pipeline include design variations and optional routes to provide more flexibility in water delivery options.

The proposed desalination facility is located on a 13-acre site comprised of a portion of the HBGS facility located at 21730 Newland Street, off Pacific Coast Highway and a City owned parcel abutting the HBGS facility.

Two off-site underground booster pump stations and modifications to an existing booster pump station would be needed as part of the product water’s primary route distribution system. The first off-site underground booster pump station (the OC-44 booster pump station) is proposed to be located within the City of Newport Beach, south of the intersection of Bonita Canyon Drive and Chambord Street. The second underground booster pump station (the Coastal Junction booster pump station) would be located in the parking lot of a church at 4949 Alton Parkway within the City of Irvine. The booster pump station requiring minor modifications is located along the OC-35 pipeline, near the intersection of Springdale Street and Skylab Road in Huntington Beach. A bypass station in Santa Ana Avenue just southwest of Bristol Street intersection, and two metering stations will be required adjacent to/or in Hamilton Avenue at the Talbert Channel crossing and east of the Adams Avenue/Brookhurst Street intersection.

Optional product water transmission pipeline routes and pump stations are also considered and evaluated in the SEIR that would convey water northerly in Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Costa Mesa. Pump stations are proposed for optional routes located near the intersection of Orangewood Avenue/Magnolia Street, Brookhurst Street/Bixby Avenue and to the north of the Bear Avenue/Segerstrom Avenue intersection.

Public Comment Meeting:

A meeting will be held during the 45-day comment period to take comments related to the adequacy of the environmental issues analyzed in the SEIR. The meeting will be held on Thursday June 10, 2010 and starts at 6:00 p.m. in Rooms C and D, Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA. At this time, no date has been set for a public hearing on the project. For further information please contact Ricky Ramos at 714-536-5624.