



ONLINE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS DURING ENGAGEMENT
PANEL MEETING
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Lisa Vallejos - Fingers crossed for Cal Poly's use of the land! When will Cal Poly submit a proposal?

Response 1 - Great question, Lisa. The start of decommissioning is still some years away (2025) but Cal Poly is free to submit a proposal any time. We just need a leader from Cal Poly to step forward and embrace the vision.

Response 2 - Cal Poly has the process map for submitting proposal. PG&E has informed public and regulator how any proposal will be evaluated. That process is on the panel website.

David Houghton - It seems that the breakwater is potentially beneficial for decommissioning, could be a future resource, and would be costly to remove. What arguments (if any) are there for removing the breakwater?

Response 1 - Thanks David — the Panel has sponsored a few meetings now and a workshop on the topic, and we haven't heard any arguments for the removal, actually. The issue seems to be whether some entity will step forward with a vision for the repurposing of the breakwater. Absent that, the breakwater may have to be removed, per the statement made by Cheryl from the State Lands Commission tonight.

Response 2 - I concur with Kara's answer. However, the base terms of the state lease require removal unless the state relieves PG&E of that obligation.

Troy Barnhart - The waverider buoy is one of the few offshore wave monitoring installations in this area of the coast. Is there potential to have Cal Poly or another institution, for example, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, take over upkeep of the buoy? Perhaps PG&E could commit to continued funding for this?

Response 1 - That is unlikely, PG&E only funds items directly related to utility operations. A successor could take over the asset subject to state approval. Any transfer of assets requires approval from the CA Public Utilities Commission via a filing known as an 851. Utility applies to the CPUC to seek approval to divest the asset. Further, the buoy is subject to lease from state lands commission.

William Almas - Question for State Lands: Is there a cost /benefit analysis carried out during CEQA associated with the complete or partial removal of the breakwater? Will the large expenditure of energy be considered?

Response 1 - Under current plans, the County and not State Lands will be the Lead Agency for CEQA purposes. State Lands will act as a responsible agency and rely upon the County's CEQA document. Looking at CEQA generally, the analysis is required to look at environmental impacts

and environmental benefits. Economic feasibility is also factored into the analysis, particularly related to mitigation. Energy consumption is also considered in CEQA analysis.

Don Chartrand - What is the current estimate of black abalone present in the same area that historically showed 9000? Also, are there current estimates of red abalone?

Response 1 - Thanks for your other question.

Response 2 - TENERA should have the accurate data, but I believe that prior to “The withering foot syndrome”. where 90 percent of the black abalone were impacted, within Diablo Cove (which had approximately 800 meters of suitable habitat) the counts were over 2000 black abalone.

Don Chartrand - Note that my abalone abundance question stems from conservation intent. I am happy to rescind my question considering the poaching risk to abalone.

Response 1 - Thank you

Jack Shoulders - Is it possible to leave the breakwater as is and let it be abandoned eventually without committing to keeping it in top shape?

Response 1 - yes — that can be considered if state lands commission were to approve that. It is not up to the lessee.

Response 2 - Thank you Jack. I think that outcome is preferred to removing it, and the Panel will consider addressing that in the next revision of its Strategic Vision.

Ron Reilly - I wonder if there would be some way to limit public access to preserve those tide pools? It would be a shame to not be able to visit by appointment after some training on how to walk in tide pools.

Response 1 - if held either in private ownership or restricted access by a public agency that can be retained.

Response 2 - Thank you Ron — I agree; I think public access should be controlled/limited.

There's value in public access, but we will need good management and education. There are some hopes of a coastal trail along the bluffs, but the key may be in locating it far enough away from the coastline, so as to prevent tide pool trampling (and coastal erosion) - like what's been done on the Point Buchon Trail.

David Houghton - Thanks for the follow-up on the breakwater question. Wouldn't removal require its own round of permitting and CEQA assessment? I would think that is an off-ramp to this expensive and potentially disruptive effort.

Response 1 - Yes. However, previous state rulings offer that the temporary impacts can be outweighed by the long-term benefit from removal to restore habitat.

David Houghton - Does the brine rejoin the cooling water before or after the cooling process?

Response 1 - live answered

Response 2 - The brine comes back to the intake system in a pipe and is mixed before the water goes into the plant for cooling.

William Almas - John Waddell, What are the possibilities for "water wheeling" going north to Whale Rock pipeline instead of south to Lopez system with desalinated water? Is going north a more efficient cost effective approach to delivering desal water to San Luis County?

Response 1 - Bill, The pipeline to the south was about 7 miles. The route to the north for interconnection was over 11 miles. If connected to south county system, they could wheel state water from southern customers and re-route using the method you suggest to central and north county. In essence, it was a county wide benefit if executed.

Ron Reilly - Thank you for this presentation. I'll ask something that has likely been asked before... but I want to know your thoughts. Has there been thought of a public-private partnership whereby a private entity runs/maintains the desal plant and builds some (or much) of the needed infrastructure, then benefits from charging agencies for the water provided? In the long term, this project seems like a valuable backup and supplement to the Central Coast Blue project. The price tag is likely prohibitive for our agencies alone after the significant investment in CC Blue.

Jack Shoulders - DCPD is going to use most of the desal volume until ~2040 so it is not available to send to the County?

Coleman Miller - If buildings are repurposed, does the amount of water needed for decommissioning go down and if so by how much? 25 per cent, 50 per cent?

Response 1 - We do not know — depends on how the building is used. However, the buildings at Diablo are used as part of a 24-hour facility. Most uses would not be as impactful.

Coleman Miller - Can brine be sent to an evaporation pond and products such as "sea salt" and precious metals sold?

Response 1 – live answered

Eric Miller - Like the Santa Barbara plant, I would assume the DCPD desalination plant could be expanded as needed. I believe the value in the existing plant is much of the infrastructure is existing already saving that construction costs as well as an existing permit that could be built upon to streamline the total permitting cost.

Response 1 - That is correct. The volumes analyzed were based on existing water volumes under current permitting.

Brad Snook - Thank you for the great questions and comments from the panelists. South County residents are moving forward with recycled water and conservation alternatives. Surfrider Foundation supports those approaches instead of placing additional impacts of ocean outfall for

brine disposal from ocean water desalination. Wouldn't it also make sense that the solution to the Diablo Lands water use would come through conservation and reclamation?

Response 1 - Thanks for you input, Brad. The Panel appreciates hearing from Surfrider.

Tim Hogan - Just a comment – the “Desalination Amendment” to the Ocean Plan sets very high environmental protection bars for the design, operation, and mitigation of desalination intakes and discharges. It requires 1.0-mm mesh screens (to minimize entrainment of smaller non-swimming organisms) and enough screening area to ensure through-screen velocity does not exceed 0.5 ft/sec (to minimize impingement of larger organisms). CA is widely recognized for setting the highest bar in this regard.

Response 1 - you are correct. Mr. Juarez showed an example of this type of screen in his presentation.

Eric Miller - Will an onsite wastewater treatment plant continue to operate in support of the ISFSI oversight staff? Would this plant circulate water to dilute the treatment plant effluent? If so, would that be available for brine dilution?