



California Coastal Commission

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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

Coastal Commission Hearing on Doheny Desalination Project

What is the Doheny Desalination Project?

The South Coast Water District is proposing to build and operate a desalination facility in the City of Dana Point that would include several wells within Doheny State Beach. The project would provide water to ratepayers throughout the District's nearby service area and would reduce the area's reliance on water imported from other parts of the state that is delivered through pipelines from northern Orange County. The proposal uses several design elements preferred under the state's Ocean Plan for seawater desalination facilities because they are meant to avoid or reduce potential impacts to marine life and water quality.

What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for the people. The Commission does this by looking at how development affects the environment and public coastal access. Agency staff makes recommendations to the Commissioners, who take a final vote.

When will the Commission make a decision about the Doheny Desal Project?

On Thursday, October 13, 2022, the Commission will hold a public hearing in person in San Diego and over Zoom about the Doheny Desalination proposal. The Commission will hear from its staff, government representatives, and members of the public. The Commission is expected to vote on whether to approve or deny the project. The public hearing is an opportunity to make your voice heard on the proposed project. All are welcome.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

Staff is recommending that the Commission approve this project with several special conditions to ensure that the project will be consistent with public access and recreation, marine and water quality protection, and relevant seismic and coastal hazards policies of the Coastal Act. Conditions include mitigating the temporary loss of coastal public access and recreational opportunities resulting from the closure of Doheny State Beach campground during project construction by providing additional camping opportunities at other nearby coastal campgrounds. The Commission is also requiring the SCWD to mitigate for potential marine life and water quality impacts by creating or restoring estuarine and/or marine habitats near the project site. To find out more about other special conditions, please access the entire [Commission Staff Report here](#).

How does this affect me?

You may be affected if you live within the District's service area and may pay the higher costs for water from the project or if you use Doheny State Beach for coastal access and recreation.

How can I participate?

- Email comments to tom.luster@coastal.ca.gov
- Mail comments to 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Access the Staff Report: documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/10/Th10a/Th10a-10-2022-report.pdf
- Speak virtually at the October 13, 2022 meeting by filling out a speaker slip: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/request-testimony/special-hearing/>
- For questions, contact Noaki Schwartz, Public Information Officer at 562-833-5487 or Noaki.Schwartz@Coastal.Ca.Gov