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Assembly California Legislature



MIMI WALTERS
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN WHIP
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

April 6, 2005

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Mr. Eric L. Gillies
Project Manager
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100
South Sacramento, CA 95825

*Re: Comments on Draft EIR for Disposition of Offshore Cooling Water Conduits,
SONGS Unit 1 (State Clearinghouse Number SCH 2004061092)*

Dear Mr. Gillies:

3.4.1

As the state Assembly Member who represents the San Onofre area and communities in both south Orange County and north San Diego County, I want to express my support for the "No Project" or "Artificial Reef" alternatives in the draft EIR for the Disposition of Offshore Cooling Water Conduits for SONGS Unit 1. It is my belief that either of these alternatives would serve the interests of my constituents, by leaving the intake and outfall lines intact and allowing them to be used for potentially beneficial uses in the future.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), for example, has indicated that the SONGS Unit 1 intake and outfall lines could potentially be used if development of an ocean water desalination facility at nearby Camp Pendleton is pursued in the future. While there is no guarantee that this facility would ultimately be used for ocean water desalination, the benefit that it could provide should be given meaningful consideration by the State Lands Commission and the facility protected in its current configuration under the "No Project" alternative.

3.4.2

If the State Lands Commission were to proceed with the "Proposed Project" as outlined in the draft EIR, the ability for this existing intake and outfall to ever be used for ocean desalination would be greatly compromised, if not completely eliminated. Again, I believe the interests of my constituents would be served if the SONGS Unit 1 intake and outfall were protected, until such time as it has been determined that the facilities would not serve the public good.

3.4.3

There are only a limited number of viable sites for ocean water desalination plants along the California coast, particularly in already developed coastal areas. The development of these sites for other purposes, or the dismantling of existing infrastructure that could be used for this purpose, would systematically eliminate potential desalination plants from ever being constructed at these locations. I believe the State of California and the State

Lands Commission have a responsibility to its citizens to preserve viable ocean water desalination sites along the California coast.

Thank you for your review and consideration of my comments. If you have any questions please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mimi Walters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIMI WALTERS
Assemblywoman, 73rd District

1 **3.4 Mimi Walters, Assemblymember, California Legislature, April 6, 2005**

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3 3.4.1 Support for the No Project Alternative or the Artificial Reef Alternative is
4 acknowledged.

5 3.4.2 Comment acknowledged.

6 3.4.3 Comment noted.

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