From:	Milt Dardis
To:	opc.comments@scc.ca.gov
Subject:	Ocean Desalination and Once-Through Cooling
Date:	Thursday, September 08, 2011 11:07:48 PM

Dear Chair and Members,

I am a Californian who cares deeply about our coast and ocean. I want to thank the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Members and Staff for working hard to identify critical issues in the Draft Strategic Plan. All of the issues identified in the Strategic Plan deserve thorough and coordinated attention from OPC. However, one issue requires OPC's immediate attention: “Ocean Desalination and Once-Through Cooling.”

Numerous ocean desalination project proponents are applying for permits as we speak. Currently, there is no clear state guidance on the site and design of the facilities, nor the technology mandated to protect marine life from deadly open-ocean water intakes.

OPC played a critical role in coordinating several agencies to ensure that our coastal power plants could be modernized with cooling technologies that eliminated marine life mortality from “once-through cooling” (OTC). These antiquated systems have already been proven to cause significant harm to marine ecosystems.

Further, we have now identified practices for withdrawing seawater from sub-seafloor intakes as a feasible way to avoid the marine life mortality from “open-ocean intakes” for desalination projects. However, if ocean desalination facilities perpetuate the use of outdated open-ocean intakes, it would undermine the purpose of OPC's 2006 OTC Resolution and the work by numerous state agencies to protect marine life from this outdated and destructive technology.

I encourage the OPC to immediately undertake work to protect our coast and ocean from proposed ocean desalination facilities. I respectfully request that OPC adopts a Strategic Plan that reflects its commitment to protect our coast and ocean from desalination facilities, consistent with its related work on OTC facilities.

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