

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF TECHNICAL REVIEW WORKSHOP
for the
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS)
WHEELER NORTH REEF MITIGATION PROJECT**

A public workshop will be conducted by California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff and contract scientists to present the 2016 results of the CCC monitoring program for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) artificial reef mitigation project (Wheeler North Reef).



**The workshop will be held Monday, April 10, 2017 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM
at the Samueli Conference Center located at the Ocean Institute,
24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point, California**

For more information, please contact Jonna Engel at 805-585-1816 (jonna.engel@coastal.ca.gov) or Dan Reed at 805-893-8363 (reed@lifesci.ucsb.edu). For more info about the SONGS mitigation go to: <http://marinemitigation.msi.ucsb.edu/index.html>

BACKGROUND

Four mitigation projects are required as conditions of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) coastal development permit for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 (permit no. 6-81-330A, formerly 183-73); among them the requirement to construct an artificial reef large enough to sustain 150 acres of medium to high density kelp bed community and a fish standing stock of 28 tons. The CCC originally adopted the conditions in 1991 to mitigate the adverse impacts of the power plant on the marine environment. The 1991 conditions also require SCE to provide the funds necessary for CCC staff's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects, to be carried out by independent contract scientists under the direction of the Executive Director of the CCC.

A five-year monitoring program on the Phase 1 experimental portion of the artificial reef mitigation project was completed in December 2004. The CCC approved SCE's Final Plan and Coastal Development Permit (#E-07-010) for the Phase 2 mitigation reef on February 12, 2008 and construction of the reef was completed on September 12, 2008. The Phase 2 reef was designed and constructed as 18 polygons ranging in area from 1.35 to 38.88 acres for a total reef area of 152 acres. Together the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reefs comprise the Wheeler North Reef with a total area of 177 acres. The Phase 2 reef construction achieved the following desired objectives: (1) all polygons were built in close proximity to the San Mateo Kelp Bed; (2) all polygons avoided existing hard substrate areas that had historical presence of kelp; (3) the integrity of the Phase 1 Experimental Reef modules was maintained; (4) navigation channels were provided in response to concerns raised by fishermen; and (5) all constructed reef polygons avoided areas of historical kelp growth as well as areas of special interest to local fisheries.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The CCC's technical oversight and independent monitoring program provides for periodic public review of the performance of the SONGS mitigation projects. Concurrent monitoring of physical and biological attributes of the Wheeler North Reef and the two reference reefs (San Mateo kelp bed located adjacent to the southern end of the Wheeler North Reef and Barn kelp bed located approximately 12 km south of San Mateo kelp bed) is being used to evaluate whether the Wheeler North Reef meets the performance criteria set forth in the SONGS permit. Post-construction compliance monitoring began in June 2009 with quantitative underwater surveys of the reefs by the CCC contract scientists. The eighth year of surveys was completed in 2016.

The public workshop will provide an opportunity to review the results from these 2016 surveys. The workshop will feature presentations on the monitoring results, the overall status of the Wheeler North Reef in meeting the performance standards imposed by the CCC, potential problems and recommendations for solving them, and plans for the 2017 monitoring. ***No regulatory decisions will be made on the mitigation project at the workshop.*** CCC staff will use information from the workshop in carrying out its oversight and monitoring of the mitigation project.

It is the CCC's intention that the technical review workshop be attended by representatives of state and federal resource agencies, local government representatives, scientists interested in restoration and environmental monitoring, and the general public. The workshop will be conducted by CCC staff and contract scientists. Representatives from SCE and members of the CCC's Scientific Advisory Panel also will be on hand to provide further scientific viewpoints on the mitigation project.