



**Uncommon Dialogue: Marine and Coastal Impacts of Desalination in California
January 14-15, 2016
Harborview Conference Room
99 Pacific St., Suite 100A, Monterey, CA**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Dialogue Goals and Objectives:

1. Exchange information and promote an open discussion regarding best available science, technology, and policy on marine and coastal impacts of desalination projects in California and elsewhere.
2. Identify key issues and knowledge gaps for both research and policy development with respect to marine and coastal impacts of desalination in California and elsewhere.

Possible Dialogue Outputs:

1. Report or white paper for the research and NGO communities highlighting key issues and recommendations for further work.
2. One or more policy briefs targeted directly at key decision-makers working on desalination issues in California.
3. Building relationships between the conference sponsors (Stanford, Monterey Bay Aquarium, The Nature Conservancy) and policy-makers and researchers to help move forward on effective work related to marine and coastal impacts of desalination.

Meeting Details:

When: January 14-15, 2016 (1.5 days)
Where: Monterey Bay Aquarium Heritage Harbor Conference Room
Hotel: InterContinental – The Clement Monterey, 750 Cannery Row

Attendees:

The workshop will be attended by a selected group of approximately 35 representatives of NGOs, government agencies, and research institutions focused on marine and coastal environments and water management, primarily in California.

Conference Hosts and Sponsors:

- Stanford University Woods Institute for the Environment: Water in the West and Center for Ocean Solutions
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- The Nature Conservancy

AGENDA

Thursday, January 14

- 9:00 – 9:30** ***Light Breakfast***
- 9:30 – 10:00** ***Welcome & Introductions***
- 10:00 - 12:00** ***Session I: Potential scope of ocean desalination in California and current regulatory context***

Panel Speakers

Newsha Ajami, Water in the West

Topic: Overview of potential extent of ocean desalination in California, including currently planned or proposed facilities, potential quantities of water, and potential role in California's water supply portfolio.

Tom Luster, California Coastal Commission

Topic: Overview of state policies and regulations with respect to ocean desalination facilities.

Moderated Discussion (Ashley Erickson, Center for Ocean Solutions)

Potential Topics for Discussion:

- Projected water resources outlook for California and the potential role of ocean desalination in the state's water supply portfolio.
- Likely locations of future facilities.
- Role of desalination in the context of other "new" sources of water, including conservation and reclamation.
- Desalination's potential to displace water demand from stressed surface and ground waters.
- How current policies and agency resources will address the challenges of the pace of desalination development in California.

12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

1:00-2:45: Session II: Sea water intakes

Panel Speaker

Peter Raimondi, *University of California at Santa Cruz*

Topic: Overview of impacts of ocean intakes on the marine environment, mitigation strategies, and implications of the new California policy regarding ocean intakes.

Moderated Discussion (Letise LaFeir, Monterey Bay Aquarium)

Potential Topics for Discussion:

- Comparison of seawater intake approaches.
- Adequacy of existing data, studies, and other information for understanding intake impacts and how best to mitigate them.
- Experience in California with marine impacts of ocean water intakes, including desalination facilities and power plants.
- California policies and regulations, including compensatory mitigation frameworks and assessment of gaps.
- How intake issues, including relevant California policy, affect siting possibilities and decisions.

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-5:00 Session III: Siting issues and community impacts

Panel Speakers

Walter Heady, *The Nature Conservancy*

Topic: Overview of spatial considerations for desalination development in California including marine and coastal habitats, vulnerability to sea level rise, and other environmental and infrastructure considerations.

Jason Burnett, *Mayor, Carmel-by-the-Sea*

Topic: Community perspective on desalination approval and siting decisions, including overview of process for proposed desalination facility on the Monterey Peninsula.

Moderated Discussion (Lily Verdone, The Nature Conservancy)

Potential Topics for Discussion:

- Lessons learned from the approval and siting process for desalination plants in California to date.

- The interrelationship between once through cooling power plants and desalination plants, and the potential need to move away from colocation under new California policy regarding intakes.
- Climate impacts of desalination, and impacts of climate change (ocean level rise) on siting decisions.
- The impacts and benefits of desalination facilities for coastal communities.
- The community dynamics related to the need for desalination and the facility approval process.

5:30-6:30 Reception at The InterContinental Hotel – The Clement Monterey

6:30-7:30 Dinner

Friday, January 15

8:00 – 9:00 *Breakfast*

9:00 – 10:30 *Session IV: Brine disposal*

Panel Speaker

Phillip Roberts, Georgia Institute of Technology

Topic: Overview of potential marine impacts of brine disposal, state of knowledge about those impacts, and existing technology for brine disposal.

Moderated Discussion (Jeff Koseff, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment)

Potential Topics for Discussion:

- Adequacy of existing data, studies, and other information for understanding brine impacts and how to best mitigate them.
- Assessment of technologies and methods for mitigation of brine disposal effects.
- How potential impacts may vary in different coastal environments in California.
- California policies and regulations, including assessment of gaps.

10:30 – 10:45 *Break*

10:45—12:00 *Session V: Wrap up - Leon Szeptycki, Water in the West*

12:00 – 1:00 *Lunch*

End