

Poseidon Resources Huntington Beach Ocean Desalination Project

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and Poseidon Resources are exploring ocean desalination as a way to increase the area's local water supplies. The District's 2015 plan identifies the proposed Huntington Beach Desalination Project as providing the District with up to 56,000 acre feet per year (50 MGD) of new supply by the year 2020. This new source of water would reduce the region's dependence on imported water sources from Northern California and the Colorado River which are vulnerable to drought, natural disasters, environmental concerns, and regulatory restrictions.

The Huntington Beach Project's 56,000 acre feet per year capacity is the single largest source of new, local drinking water supply available to the region. In addition to offsetting imported demand, water from the Project could provide flexibility in how the District manages the groundwater basin, specifically the desalinated water could be used to augment supplies we inject into our Talbert Seawater Barrier to help prevent seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin.

Per a Term Sheet that was approved in May 2015, Poseidon Resources would be responsible for permitting, financing, constructing, and operating an ocean desalination treatment plant in the City of Huntington Beach. OCWD would be responsible for permitting, financing, constructing and operating the necessary project distribution system to route the water to various agencies in the region.

The proposed facility would have the capacity to produce 50 million gallons of water per day, or 56,000 acre-feet of water per year, which is enough water for more than 400,000 people.

OCWD is currently evaluating different distribution options for the project. ~~The District will need to process necessary CEQA documents to support the selected distribution plan.~~ Poseidon Resources is currently working to renew and modify its existing permits with the California State Lands Commission and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Upon obtaining these permits, Poseidon Resources will then work to obtain a coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission.

OCWD and Poseidon Resources will consider a final water purchase agreement after Poseidon obtains the necessary project permits. An agreement would be based upon the May 2015 Term Sheet previously negotiated between both parties.

Additional information about the project is available at <https://www.ocwd.com/learning-center/ocean-desalination/>