



**Long Beach Water Department**  
The Standard in Water Conservation &  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Long Beach Desalination Ocean Intake Facility Granted Two-Year Permit Extension from California Coastal Commission**

Extension gives LB Water Department two additional years to develop and refine environmentally-friendly ocean intake and discharge technology

LONG BEACH, CA – Today, the Long Beach Water Department received a two-year extension on its coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission for the department's Under Ocean Floor Seawater Intake and Discharge Demonstration System, the first intake system of its kind anywhere in the United States. The extension postpones the date by which the Water Department has to wrap up its operations at the site from May 2010 to May 2012.

"This is great news for the City of Long Beach," proclaimed Kevin Wattier, General Manager for the Long Beach Water Department. "The extension will allow us to conduct further valuable research on both the cost and effectiveness of under ocean floor intake and discharge technology as part of an overarching desalinated water supply facility," said Wattier.

The Long Beach under ocean floor seawater intake and discharge system is a vital component of the Long Beach Desalination Project, an ongoing national research and development partnership between the Long Beach Water Department and the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. It was built to demonstrate a cost-effective, environmentally responsible alternative to more traditional seawater intake and discharge practices used around the world, which have been criticized for their unintentional, but deadly impacts on ocean habitats and species. State legislation was introduced earlier this year that would make it illegal in the future to build traditional open-ocean intake systems, further highlighting the need to find alternative, environmentally-friendly seawater intake processes.

The under ocean floor intake system utilizes a natural, biological filtration process, which reduces organic and suspended solids, largely eliminating the need for additional pretreatment, and resulting in a smaller overall energy footprint and cost of operation. A full-scale, sub-ocean floor intake system, with technology identical to that which the Long Beach Water Department has constructed, has been operational, and successful, at a 25 MGD seawater desalination facility in Japan for the last several years.

"California's water crisis continues to worsen, which makes it imperative that we remain committed to finding alternative, reliable sources of water," said John Allen, President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. "It's also our responsibility to ensure that any water supply alternative we pursue is an efficient use of taxpayer money and results in no negative impacts to the environment. We are pleased that the California Coastal Commission recognizes the value of our Under Ocean Floor Seawater Intake Demonstration System project and is permitting us two extra years of research and development at the site," added Allen.



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