



Environmental  
Research and  
Consulting

## Case Study: Moss Landing Desalination Plant Environmental Compliance

**CLIENT:** Moss Landing Commercial Park LLC

**FACILITY:** Moss Landing People's Desalination Plant

**BACKGROUND:** The proposed Moss Landing People's Desalination Plant (Moss Landing Plant) is designed to produce 12 million gallons per day of drinking water. The plant will be located in Moss Landing and make use of existing infrastructure owned by the developer. To be compliant with the new regulations (Desalination Amendment to the Ocean Plan) promulgated by California's State Water Resources Control Board, 1-mm cylindrical wedgewire screens will be used on the offshore intake and a diffuser will be used on the offshore discharge. The project has developed an Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report and is working collaboratively with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, Moss Landing Harbor District, to refine the project details in preparation for a full environmental analysis.

**CHALLENGE:** A seawater desalination facility proposing the use of an open ocean intake and offshore diffuser can be an environmental hurdle to ensure compliance with the Desalination Amendment. Furthermore, development in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary introduces another layer of scrutiny. Moss Landing Commercial Park contracted with TWB to coordinate the technical experts involved in the conceptual-level design of the project components.

**APPROACH:** TWB worked with the developer to assemble a team of experts covering all aspects of the Moss Landing Plant design. TWB's Tim Hogan spearheaded the effort to answer questions from the CEQA lead agency's consultant about the design of various project features. TWB managed the group of technical experts who had expertise in:

- Regulatory compliance (Desalination Amendment)
- Process design
- Marine construction
- Intake and discharge civil and hydraulic design
- Pipeline sliplining
- Horizontal directional drilling

**SOLUTION:** TWB acted as the coordinator of the technical experts, ensuring that answers to questions requiring input from multiple disciplines were complete and accurate. TWB acted as the liaison between the project proponent and the lead agency's consulting team. The technical responses submitted on the project design keeps this project moving forward through the Environmental Impact Report process.

