



PG&E Letter DCL-2015-513

Certified/Return Receipt  
# 7010-1060-0000-4204-2674

March 17, 2015

Justin Viezbicke  
California Stranding Network Coordinator  
NOAA Fisheries  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Marine Mammal Stranding Report (Sea Lion) Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Dear Mr. Viezbicke:

Enclosed is a NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Stranding Report for a dead sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) discovered in the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) intake structure forebay. The sea lion was discovered on February 22, 2015 against the Unit 2 intake 2-6 debris bar rack.

As authorized in a letter dated June 3, 1994 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), DCPP staff removed the dead sea lion from the intake structure and transported it offshore. The sea lion was approximately 50 inches in length, with an estimated weight of about 180 pounds. The animal had moderate decomposition (reference enclosed photograph). There was no indication of cause of death due to the decomposition. It appears that this animal died and drifted up against the intake bar racks. Plant intake flow rates are not a challenge to live sea lions, and they frequently swim in and out of the intake structure. There was no indication of an adverse impact to the marine mammal due to power plant operations. It is most likely that the sea lion's death is attributable to natural causes.

Verbal notification of this incident was reported to NOAA Fisheries on February 23, 2015 (the day after discovery).

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed report, or require additional information, please contact Jim Kelly of my staff at (805) 545-3194.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Cortese  
Manager – Chemistry and Environmental Operations

2015513/jlk/bkc

Enclosures (2)

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Justin Viezbicke, NOAA Fisheries  
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cc w/enclosure: Alan B. Wang  
NRR Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
Mail Stop 08B1  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Thomas Hipschman  
Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant 104/5

Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
611 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-4125

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Marine Region  
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. Suite 100  
Monterey, CA 93940

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Specimen Photograph – Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*)  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) - February 22, 2015



## MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING REPORT - LEVEL A DATA

FIELD #: \_\_\_\_\_ NMFS REGIONAL #: \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL DATABASE#: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NMFS USE) (NMFS USE)

COMMON NAME: California Sea Lion GENUS: Zalophus SPECIES: californianus

EXAMINER Name: James Kelly Affiliation: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Address: P.O. Box 56, Avila Beach, California 93424 Phone: (805) 545-3194

Stranding Agreement or Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>LOCATION OF INITIAL OBSERVATION</b> State: <u>Ca.</u> County: <u>San Luis Obispo</u> City: <u>Avila Beach</u> Body of Water: <u>Pacific Ocean</u> Locality Details: <u>Diablo Canyon Power Plant - Intake Structure Bay 2-6</u> Lat (DD): <u>35</u> <u>12' 44"</u> N Long (DD): <u>120</u> <u>51' 13"</u> W <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated  How Determined: (check ONE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Map <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Software	<b>OCURRENCE DETAILS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Restrand GE# _____ Group Event: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (NMFS Use) If Yes, Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cow/Calf Pair <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Stranding # Animals: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated  Findings of Human Interaction: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD) If Yes, Choose one or more: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Boat Collision <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Shot <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Fishery Interaction <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other Human Interaction: _____ How Determined (Check one or more): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Gear Collected? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Gear Disposition: _____ Other Findings Upon Level A: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD) If Yes, Choose one or more: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Illness <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other: _____ How Determined (Check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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<b>INITIAL OBSERVATION</b> Date: Year: <u>2015</u> Month: <u>02</u> Day: <u>22</u> First Observed: <input type="checkbox"/> Beach or Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floating <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming  <b>CONDITION AT INITIAL OBSERVATION</b> (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Alive <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Advanced Decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Fresh dead <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Mummified/Skeletal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Moderate decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Condition Unknown	<b>LEVEL A EXAMINATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Able to Examine Date: Year: <u>2014</u> Month: <u>02</u> Day: <u>23</u>  <b>CONDITION AT EXAMINATION</b> (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Alive <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Advanced Decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Fresh dead <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Mummified/Skeletal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Moderate decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Unknown
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<b>INITIAL LIVE ANIMAL DISPOSITION</b> (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Left at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Euthanized at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Immediate Release at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transferred to Rehabilitation: Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____ Facility: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Relocated <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Died during Transport <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Disentangled <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Euthanized during Transport <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Died at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Other: _____	<b>MORPHOLOGICAL DATA</b>  <b>SEX</b> (Check ONE) <b>AGE CLASS</b> (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Adult <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Pup/Calf <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Subadult <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Yearling  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole Carcass <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Carcass  Straight length: <u>50</u> <input type="checkbox"/> cm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> actual <input type="checkbox"/> estimated Weight: <u>175-185</u> <input type="checkbox"/> kg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lb <input type="checkbox"/> actual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> estimated  <b>PHOTOS/VIDEOS TAKEN:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Photo/Video Disposition: _____ One photo is enclosed with the report.
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<b>CONDITION/DETERMINATION</b> (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Sick <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Location Hazardous <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Injured <input type="checkbox"/> a. To animal <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Out of Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> b. To public <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Deemed Releasable <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Unknown/CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Abandoned/Orphaned <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Inaccessible	<b>CARCASS STATUS</b> (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Left at Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Towed: Lat _____ Long _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Landfill <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Buried <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Sunk: Lat _____ Long _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Rendered <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Frozen for Later Examination <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other: _____  <b>SPECIMEN DISPOSITION</b> (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Scientific collection <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Educational collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Other: <u>Towed offshore</u> Comments: _____  <b>NECROPSIED</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass Fresh <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass Frozen/Thawed  <b>NECROPSIED BY:</b> _____ Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____
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**TAG DATA** Tags Were:

Present at Time of Stranding (Pre-existing):  YES  NO  
 Applied during Stranding Response:  YES  NO

ID#	Color	Type	Placement* (Circle ONE)	Applied	Present
_____	_____	_____	D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* D= Dorsal; DF= Dorsal Fin; L= Lateral Body  
 LF= Left Front; LR= Left Rear; RF= Right Front; RR= Right Rear

**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

**ADDITIONAL IDENTIFIER:** \_\_\_\_\_ (If animal is restranded, please indicate any previous field numbers here)

The sea lion carcass was found against the 2-6 bar rack in the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) intake structure. It had apparently died nearby, and drifted onto the bar rack in the intake flow. The carcass was removed by divers, photographed, and towed offshore where it was released. There was no indication of an adverse impact to the animal attributable to power plant operations.

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**DISCLAIMER**

THESE DATA SHOULD NOT BE USED OUT OF CONTEXT OR WITHOUT VERIFICATION. THIS SHOULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED WHEN REPORTING SIGNS OF HUMAN INTERACTION DATA.

**DATA ACCESS FOR LEVEL A DATA**

UPON WRITTEN REQUEST, CERTAIN FIELDS OF THE LEVEL A DATA SHEET WILL BE RELEASED TO THE REQUESTOR PROVIDED THAT THE REQUESTOR CREDIT THE STRANDING NETWORK AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WILL NOTIFY THE CONTRIBUTING STRANDING NETWORK MEMBERS THAT THESE DATA HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AND THE INTENT OF USE. ALL OTHER DATA WILL BE RELEASED TO THE REQUESTOR PROVIDED THAT THE REQUESTOR OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE CONTRIBUTING STRANDING NETWORK AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT INFORMATION**

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN FOR THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION IS ESTIMATED TO AVERAGE 30 MINUTES PER RESPONSE, INCLUDING THE TIME FOR REVIEWING INSTRUCTIONS, SEARCHING EXISTING DATA SOURCES, GATHERING AND MAINTAINING THE DATA NEEDED, AND COMPLETING AND REVIEWING THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION. SEND COMMENTS REGARDING THIS BURDEN ESTIMATE OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE COLLECTION INFORMATION, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS FOR REDUCING THE BURDEN TO: CHIEF, MARINE MAMMAL AND SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION DIVISION, OFFICE OF PROTECTED RESOURCES, NOAA FISHERIES, 1315 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910. NOT WITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE LAW, NO PERSON IS REQUIRED TO RESPOND, NOR SHALL ANY PERSON BE SUBJECTED TO A PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH, A COLLECTION OF INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT, UNLESS THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION DISPLAYS A CURRENTLY VALID OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB) CONTROL NUMBER.

