

EXHIBIT B

September 23, 2002

Chair John L. Geesman and
Members of the Siting Committee
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: PALOMAR ENERGY POWER PLANT, Docket Number 01-AFC-24
SUPPORT FOR: Petition for Workshop on Alternative Cooling Options

Dear Chair Geesman and Members of the Siting Committee:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of The Ocean Conservancy and our more than 24,000 California members. Our organization has been actively involved in power plant siting issues in California and beyond. We are particularly concerned about the potential impacts of coastal power plants on nearshore and estuarine ecosystems in California. The Ocean Conservancy strongly supports full consideration of cooling technologies capable of reducing the impacts of all new and expanded power plants.

The Ocean Conservancy urges your Siting Committee to approve the Petition for a Committee Workshop on the Subject of Alternative Cooling Options for the Palomar Energy Power Plant. It is our understanding that the issue of alternative cooling technologies was raised during the public comment period for the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and that the request to include this discussion in the PSA was denied. Given California's very serious water supply issues, we must ensure that all of our water supplies, including reclaimed water, are allocated appropriately. Continued reliance upon reclaimed water by the Palomar Energy Power Plant may not be the best policy decision. At the very least, the Siting Committee should conduct a workshop on the subject of alternative cooling technologies so that this issue can be fully considered prior to release of the Final Staff Assessment.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney
Ecosystem Program