

Dear California State Lands Commission:

I urge you to reject the proposed amendment to extend Lease 4196 for the seawater intake and discharge conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station (OBGS).

I fully support the positions of the Friends of Ormond Beach, the Surfrider Foundation, and the Central Coastal Alliance for a Sustainable Economy in opposition to continued operations at this site.

The OBGS was originally slated for retirement in December 2020. The lease is now set to expire in December 2025. It is time to end the legacy of this outdated, visually obtrusive, and environmentally harmful facility.

Over 50 years ago, the OBGS stimulated heavy industrial development here, one of the last coastal wetlands in Southern California. A heavy metal smelter and its remnants polluted the area with a slag pile that includes radioactive waste, and is now an EPA Superfund site. 20 years ago, California committed itself to end ocean water cooling in its power plants, two of which were in Oxnard, OBGS and the McGrath plant. A long campaign to license McGrath in 2018 as the Puente Plant with better cooling technology failed when the California Energy Commission (CEC) determined, with input from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) that it, along with OBGS, was not needed for peak power needs.

For 20 years there have been efforts to restore the area. The California Coastal Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy made significant land acquisitions towards that goal. A years long effort to restore and expand public access resulted in the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan (OBRAP) in 2023 which recently received some initial funding from the Legislature. The City of Oxnard got a commitment for \$25 million to fund dismantling of the plant in exchange for supporting a temporary extension of operations. There have been several extensions, this one is the latest.

The legitimacy of the government of the State of California, including this Commission, is currently in constant conflict with the Executive branch of the United States. They contend that California has no right to make or enforce any kind environmental protection for its citizens, if it conflicts with their priorities, one of which is increasing the use of fossil fuels.

If the Commission approves this extension, you may very well concede the last chance to save this beautiful area, if the authority of the current United States regime is affirmed by the Supreme Court.

If that happens, we will have many more dire problems than fixing our abused coastland, but this is the current reality.

The consent of the governed is a premise of our US Declaration of Independence and Constitution. In our present federalist system, California, via consent of the governed, has

innate rights to preserve and protect its citizens and its environment. I urge the Commission to uphold these rights on behalf of the State, and of each individual citizen.

Six months ago, I would have perceived approval of this lease extension as yet another regrettable instance of state government being overly cautious and risk averse even when the evidence and public interest were so much to the contrary.

Now, extension of this lease by the State Lands Commission, would be an act of compliance and obedience to a hostile and dangerous federal government currently dedicated to destroying our rights and our environment.

The first lesson by historian Timothy Snyder, in his book, "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century" states "Do Not Obey in Advance-Most of the power of authoritarianism is freely given. In times like these, individuals think ahead about what a more repressive government will want, and then offer themselves without being asked. A citizen who adapts in this way is teaching power what it can do."

The lesson applies here. I urge you to simply not be proactive, and to deny this lease extension. You may be sued by the U.S. Justice Department, but you will be on the right side of history.

Please, please, do the right thing. I am over 71 years old, and while I sure hope to be around for awhile, I really am afraid that this may be my last chance to see this blight removed from a place I so dearly care about.

Regards

David Caskey

[REDACTED]

Port Hueneme, California [REDACTED]

Archived: Monday, July 28, 2025 7:22:50 AM

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 12:35:09 PM

To: [CSLC Commission Meetings](#)

Subject: Agenda Item III.01 (Lease No. PRC 4196) (A 38; S 19)

Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear State Lands Commission,

I am writing to request that you reject the amendment extending the lease term of Lease 4196 for seawater intake & discharge conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station (OBGS).

Your very staff report lists the excessive pollution that Oxnard residents have endured for years. Oxnard is primarily composed of disadvantaged and marginalized populations. The Commission's own Environmental Justice Policy demands that you protect them from further harm.

The Commission also claims to be a leader in the fight against climate change. However, approval of Lease 4196 will continue to allow a fossil fuel plant to increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

By rejecting this extension, you will effectively shut down the Station, which will be in the best interests of Oxnard, environmental justice and global health.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Joy Kobayashi
Ventura, CA

Archived: Monday, July 28, 2025 7:24:30 AM
From: [Friends of Ormond Beach Oxnard, CA](#)
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 2:43:25 PM
To: [CSLC Commission Meetings](#)
Subject: Agenda Item III.01 (Lease No. PRC 4196) (A 38; S 19)
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear California State Lands Commission:

I urge you to reject the proposed amendment to extend Lease 4196 for the seawater intake and discharge conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station (OBGS). Extending this lease would directly contradict your mission of effective stewardship, equity, and environmental protection.

Your website states a commitment to “effective stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources based on the principles of equity.” To uphold that mission, you must consider the disproportionate environmental burden borne by the residents of South Oxnard. This community already endures some of the worst air quality in the state, due in part to industrial facilities such as the ammonia-emitting containerboard plant, the wastewater treatment facility, and heavy diesel traffic from the Port of Hueneme. Operating the OBGS during periods of peak demand would further exacerbate pollution and health risks. Denying the lease extension would support your Environmental Justice Policy, which prioritizes reducing burdens and increasing benefits for marginalized communities.

Preserving and enhancing California’s coastal lands also requires rejecting this extension. OBGS sits adjacent to one of the few remaining wetlands in Southern California—habitat to endangered and threatened species such as the Western Snowy Plover, California Least Tern, and Tidewater Goby. The site is a visible industrial relic, often referred to by locals as *la playa fea* (“the ugly beach”), symbolizing decades of environmental neglect. Constructed in an era with limited alternatives to thermal energy, OBGS represents outdated priorities that placed industrial development above ecosystem preservation.

Additionally, the lease extension would undermine ongoing efforts to restore and expand public access to Ormond Beach through the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan (OBRAP). Despite being less than a mile from neighborhoods like Southwinds and Cypress, residents often remain unaware of or unable to access the beach safely. Current access points—Arnold Road and Perkins Road—are inadequate, with Perkins Road ending at the toxic Halaco Superfund site, which contains radioactive waste and restricts safe entry. Extending the OBGS lease would hinder progress toward public access and restoration goals.

The Ormond Beach Generating Station was originally slated for retirement in December 2020. The lease is now set to expire in December 2025. It is time to end the legacy of this outdated, visually obtrusive, and environmentally harmful facility. I urge you to fulfill your mission to the people of California—and specifically the people of Oxnard—by denying this lease extension.

Sincerely,
C. Zubko
Co-Founder, Friends of Ormond Beach



From: [Joan Tharp](#)
To: [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#)
Subject: Agenda item 1 Lease 4196 extension
Date: Monday, July 28, 2025 7:49:55 AM

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear California State Lands Commission,

I urge you to reject the proposed amendment to extend Lease 4196 for the seawater intake and discharge conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station (OBGS). Extending this lease contradicts your mission of environmental stewardship, equity, and public benefit.

South Oxnard already bears a disproportionate environmental burden, facing some of California's worst air quality due to nearby industrial facilities and heavy port traffic. Operating OBGS during peak demand would worsen pollution and health risks, undermining your Environmental Justice Policy, which aims to reduce harm to marginalized communities.

The OBGS also threatens one of Southern California's few remaining coastal wetlands, home to endangered species like the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern. Locals call the site *la playa fea* ("the ugly beach"), a symbol of industrial neglect. Built when energy alternatives were limited, OBGS now stands as an outdated relic incompatible with today's environmental priorities.

Additionally, extending the lease would hinder the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan (OBRAP). Residents in nearby neighborhoods often lack safe, direct access to the beach. Current routes are inadequate—one ends at the toxic Halaco Superfund site. Lease extension would delay long-overdue efforts to restore the area for public use.

OBGS was scheduled to retire in 2020, with the lease ending in 2025. Now is the time to close this chapter. Please honor your mission and reject the lease extension—for California, and for the people of Oxnard.

Sincerely,
J.M. Tharp
Co-Founder, Friends of Ormond Beach