



**REGENERATE
CALIFORNIA**
POWER UP CLEAN ENERGY | POWER DOWN DIRTY GAS

State Lands Commission Meeting Mobilization Guide: Reject Lease Amendment for Ormond Beach gas plant

Join CAUSE and the Regenerate CA Coalition in making public comment at the California State Lands Commission (SLC) meeting urging them to reject lease amendments for seawater conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station (OBGS).

Meeting Info

Date: Tuesday December 17, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (approximately)

Agenda item to comment on: Public Comment at beginning of meeting (*Lease is not on the agenda*). [See full agenda](#).

[Request to speak for the meeting](#) form

How to join the meeting:

- **Zoom:** Open this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83157569765> and use the “raise hand” function to give a verbal comment.
- **Phone:** 1.669.900.6833 or 1.408.638.0968 and use the Webinar ID: 831 5756 9765. Dial *9 to give a verbal comment. “Star (*) 9” to raise/lower your hand.
- **In-person:** Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I Street Sacramento, California 95814.

Tips & Reminders:

- Make sure your phone mic is unmuted when you start speaking
- You can give testimony/comment for **up to 2 minutes** so plan ahead and prepare!
- Please speak slowly and clearly for any language interpreters

Email Aurora Rugerio at aurora@causenow.org if you have any questions.

Background

Oxnard residents have been fighting to get the OBGS shut down for years. In 2023, Regenerate and CAUSE submitted [letters](#), a [petition](#) with 1,000+ signatures, and [mobilized dozens of community members](#) to agency meetings urging decision makers to retire OBGS along with 2 other gas plants. However, the state extended the OBGS contract for a *second time* until December 2026 - breaking promises to EJ communities and costing \$1.2B in taxpayer dollars for polluting and idling resources. Now, the operators of OBGS are requesting a lease extension for the area that seawater conduits/pipes are located on which expire in April 2025. The OBGS cannot operate if the SLC denies the lease extension for the seawater conduits. Regenerate

made public comments at their Oct 17 meeting. CAUSE youth leaders met with SLC staff more than a month ago (Oct. 22) and have not received clear updates from the commission on the EJ analysis & negotiations being made with power plant owner GEN ON.

Suggested Talking Points

Note: This is just a guide. Feel free to pick just a few of the points below to comment on, given time constraints. Please adapt and add your personal story! 😊

- **Introduction**

- Good afternoon Commissioners, my name is (your name). I am a resident of (your city) and I'm here today on behalf of (your organization) and the Regenerate California Coalition.
- I am urging you *(please read all three demands)*
 - to **reject** the lease amendment extending the lease term of Lease 4196 for seawater intake & discharge conduits at the Ormond Beach Generating Station
 - asking the Commission to honor their goal of conducting a **full environmental justice analysis** before considering any lease amendments as outlined in your Environmental Justice Policy
 - **AND hold the decision-making meeting** for this lease in the city of Oxnard.

- **Personal Story (recommended)**

- Share a personal story or connection you have to the issue! If you live near Ormond Beach Generating Station, talk about your experience with the pollution or noise from that plant.
- Example: "I live in South Oxnard, and the air quality pollution from the Ormond Beach gas plant affects me and my family because _____."
- Example: "The reason why I care about this issue so much is because _____"

- **Environmental Justice & Health Impacts**

- The Ormond Beach Generating Station is located in a census tract that is predominantly communities of color who experience pollution worse than 94% of other communities in the state.
- In the State Lands Commission Environmental Justice Policy, it recognizes the urgency of addressing environmental injustice especially as impacts of climate change disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities, like Oxnard.
- Families and individuals living by these unreliable polluting plants, **have a right to clean air and healthy lungs** and shouldn't continue to be sacrificed.
- For years community members in Oxnard have fought for clean air & coastal accessibility. In 2017, the community of Oxnard fought hard to reject the proposed Puente Power Plant, the fight continues for the transition to renewables

and the retirement of the Ormond Beach gas plant - that we were promised would be shut down in 2020 and again in 2023.

- Community of Oxnard already suffers the worst air quality due to the crammed industry taking over the coast such as ammonia releasing Containerboard Factory, WasteWater facility, and heavy diesel traffic from the Port of Hueneme.
- Running the plant during peak demand only adds to the health risks from increased pollution while they were allowed to run without pollution regulations.
- The Commission claims to be a leader in the fight against climate change and transitioning away from fossil fuel to clean energy by managing a portfolio of renewable energy leases, however approving Lease 4196 and enabling fossil fuel operations contradicts this claim.

- **Reliability & Heatwave Report**

- Gas plants - especially once-through-cooling plants - failed to deliver promised power during the infamous September 2022 heat wave.
- During that heat wave, the Ormond Beach Generating Station was running at full capacity - emitting an estimated 13x more pollution than the baseline while failing to produce electricity during peak demand hours.
- On average, NOx, SOx, and carbon pollution from gas plants across the state was 60% higher during the heatwave.
- The Power Plant is unreliable, instead it contributes to the other pollution sources that cut Oxnard residents' lives short, and block them from accessing Ormond Beach. Rather than extending Lease 4196, the commission should prioritize the cleanup and removal of the intake & discharge conduits.

- **Ecosystem Protection & Coastal Access**

- Once-through cooling systems like OBGS are known to harm marine ecosystems by exposing them to thermal stress & physical stress due to impingement and entrainment.
- OBGS sits near one of the last remaining wetlands in Southern California. That area is also habitat to various endangered & threatened species like the Snowy Plover, California Least Tern, & TideWater Goby.
- It is the State Lands Commission's job to secure and safeguard the public's access rights to navigable waterways and the coastline, especially for vulnerable communities that have traditionally not been able to enjoy them.

- **Conclusion:** Again, is critical that you **reject** the amendment for **lease 4196**, conduct a **full environmental justice analysis** & hold the decision making meeting in Oxnard because (choose one):

- *Reiterate your personal story or connection to the issue!*
- The Ormond Beach Generating Station burdened Oxnard residents, it is important for Oxnard residents to have the opportunity to engage in the decision the State Lands Commission is considering for the Ormond Beach Generating Station lease.

- It's inexcusable that the State Lands Commission would consider allowing Ormond Beach Generating Station to continue to pollute frontline communities and local ecosystems.
- Through this lease amendment decision the State Lands Commission has the power and responsibility to increase benefits & minimize additional burdens on marginalized and disadvantaged communities.
- The OBGS can not operate if the SLC denies the lease extension for the seawater conduits, the health & safety of the Oxnard community lies on your decision.