

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-WATER-01
Project Title:	Water Energy Technology (WET) Program
TN #:	206129
Document Title:	CalDesal Comments on Water Energy Technology Program Phase 3: Desalination
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Patty Paul
Organization:	CalDesal
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/16/2015 1:22:48 PM
Docketed Date:	9/1/2015

DOCKETED Docket Number: 15-WATER-01

Project Title: Water Energy Technology (WET) Program

TN #: 205805

Document Title: California Energy Commission Drought Response: Water Energy Technology Program Phase 3: Desalination

Description: Public Comment by Ron Davis, Executive Director, CalDesal

Submission Date: 9/01/2015

CalDesal is a nonprofit trade association that advances the development of environmentally responsible desalination, ocean water and brackish groundwater as well as salt management strategies.

Among the questions posed by California Energy Commission staff is whether to limit grant funding to brackish water or to include ocean desalination as eligible for grant funding.

CalDesal submits that if the CEC is serious about investigating and maximizing GHG emission reductions with the recognized need for increased water supply, then it has no choice but to make both brackish water and ocean water desalination projects eligible for grant funding. In order to truly encourage project proponents of both types of desalination projects to maximize investment into GHG reduction strategies, the state of California needs to help fund such investments.

Governor Brown's California Water Action Plan calls for a number of major strategies for responding to the 4 year drought, including sustainable and resilient new local water supplies. Among the local water development strategies included in the Governor's Water Action Plan are both brackish and ocean desalination. Indeed the Water Action Plan calls for streamlining the permitting process for both types of desalination in order to facilitate their timely implementation.

In addition, this past May the State Water Resources Control Board approved historic environmental protections for the use of ocean water to create drinking water for Californians with the adoption of their Ocean Plan amendments relating to intakes, brine discharge back into the ocean and mitigation. With the most environmentally protective rules for ocean desalination in the world now in place, it is likely that more communities along the coast will consider adding ocean desalination to their local drinking water strategy.

For these reasons, CalDesal respectfully submits that both brackish water and ocean water desalination projects should be eligible for funding under this grant program to help incentivize further improvements in desalination energy efficiency.