

Sonoma Coast Hydrokinetic Energy Project



The Sonoma Coast Hydrokinetic Energy Project (SCHEP) is an investigation into the feasibility of a facility that will be able to utilize the waves off the coast of Sonoma County to generate renewable electricity. In November of 2007, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors directed the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) to research the potential use of hydrokinetics as a renewable energy source. On July 7, 2009, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved SCWA's three applications for Preliminary Permits at Del Mar Landing, Fort Ross (North), and Fort Ross (South). From July 2009 through July 2011, SCWA will perform environmental and engineering assessments to identify possible facility locations and viable hydrokinetic technologies. Before July 2011, SCWA intends to apply for a FERC Pilot License and anticipates receiving that license around July 2012. To guide SCWA during this process, an advisory committee of public and non-profit agencies was established. A series of public outreach meetings have been scheduled to receive public input. The SCHEP is part of SCWA's goal of producing carbon free water by 2015.

Carbon
Free
Water
by
2015

Public Input

SCWA is actively seeking public input on SCHEP. During the three year permit period, SCWA is conducting public outreach meetings every six months to keep coastal communities informed about the progress of the project as well as to receive public input. Public input can also be submitted through the SCWA website, www.sonomacountywater.org.

The advisory committee includes representatives from the National Marine Sanctuaries, University of California, Mendocino County, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen, Surfrider Foundation, as well as other public and non-profit agencies.

Have Questions?

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Project Locations



FERC Preliminary Permit Process

- 1) On July 7, 2009, FERC issues three 3-year Preliminary Permits to SCWA to perform feasibility studies in three ten-to-fifteen square miles areas known as Del Mar Landing, Fort Ross (North), and Fort Ross (South)
- 2) Within forty five days, SCWA submits a tentative three year schedule of activities for each permit
- 3) Every six months, SCWA submits a progress report for each permit to FERC
- 4) Before the end of the second year, SCWA submits Pilot Project Application(s) to FERC along with the environmental and engineering assessment(s)
- 5) During the third year, FERC reviews SCWA's Pilot License Application(s) and the environmental and engineering assessment(s)
- 6) Around the end of the third year, FERC issues Pilot License(s) to SCWA