GREG COX
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

September 15, 2010

The Honorable David King and Members of the Board
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

RE: Agenda Item at the November 10th RWQCB Board Meeting-- Selection of a Mitigation Site for the Carlsbad Desalination Project

Dear Chairman King and Members of the Board:

As the County Supervisor representing South San Diego County, it is my pleasure to strongly support the selection of the Otay River Floodplain as the mitigation site required by the Marine Life Mitigation Plan for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

The proposed restoration project will have significant positive impacts on bird, fish, and plant populations and on the overall health of South San Diego Bay by creating approximately 66 acres of new marine wetlands habitat.

The proposed restoration site is located within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which is approximately 3,940 acres and serves as a vital wildlife link for numerous endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. This proposed site not only helps enhance the wildlife refuge but is also consistent with the efforts of the Otay Valley Regional Park to provide passive recreational amenities and preserve vital open space habitat within the urban city limits. The Otay Valley Regional Park is a 13 mile urban river park that stretches from south San Diego Bay to Otay Lakes and is managed by a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego and the County of San Diego.

I appreciate your consideration on this matter and urge your support in selecting this location as a suitable wetland mitigation site for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,

GREG COX
Supervisor, First District

cc: David Gibson, Executive Officer
        San Diego County Water Quality Control Board

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