



SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

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JERRY SANDERS
MAYOR

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September 24, 2010

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

RE: November Board Meeting - Selection of Mitigation Site: Carlsbad Desalination Project

Dear Chair King and Board Members:

As Mayor of the City of San Diego, I am writing in support of Poseidon Resources' proposed selection of the Otay River Floodplain, located within the City of San Diego, as the candidate mitigation site pursuant to the Marine Life Mitigation Plan (MLMP) associated with the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

As you are aware, I have closely followed the desalination project through the local and state permitting process and today I want to call your attention to the project's unique environmental benefits. So much focus has been placed on the regional importance of this project in terms of a drought-proof water supply, but also important for many of us in region is the role the project will play restoring and enhancing important coastal wetlands habitat.

The MLMP establishes a plan to restore approximately 66 acres of tidal wetlands. The Otay River Floodplain site is the highest ranked restoration site among the 12 sites under consideration. The property is centrally located within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and is adjacent to other restoration activities underway. The proposed restoration of the site to inter and sub-tidal wetlands will have significant positive impacts on the overall health of the South San Diego Bay by establishing new marine wetlands habitat that will be beneficial to bird, fish, and plant populations within the Refuge.

I ask that the Regional Board approve the selection of the Otay River Floodplain site as the preferred site for the wetland mitigation for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,

JERRY SANDERS
Mayor

cc: David Gibson