



March 26, 2008

Chairman Richard Wright  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: # R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA0109223 - Carlsbad Desalination Project - Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan – April 9, 2008, Agenda Item 7

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

I represent Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI), an independent, not-for-profit, scientific research institution. HSWRI is dedicated to ensuring that future generations experience the benefits of a healthy environment by conserving the ecological integrity of our oceans and estuaries as a foundation for marine-based economies, sustainable fisheries, public recreation, transportation, tourism and quality of life.

HSWRI operates the Leon Raymond Hubbard, Jr. Marine Fish Hatchery, a 20,000-square-foot marine fish culture laboratory on the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad, CA. Our 13-year old hatchery, which employs 20 workers and costs \$1.3 million a year to run, is designed to replenish coastal fish stocks depleted by human encroachment. To date, HSWRI has bred, tagged and released more than 1.4 million seabass into Southern California waters.

Over the years, HSWRI has provided written and oral testimony in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Project after reviewing the project very thoroughly to ensure that it would not have a negative impact on our operations. We have also studied their Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan which your board requested after approving a discharge permit for the project in 2006.

We find that the desalination project has been designed with more than adequate coastal protections and mitigation measures to ensure the health of the marine ecosystem.

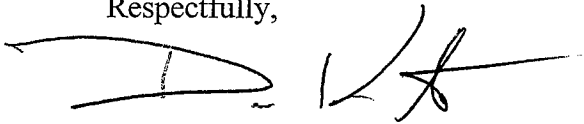
It's also important to know approval of the project will result in additional lagoon acreage to be dedicated to the City of Carlsbad for the expansion of our white seabass enhancement program or related marine research. This dedication is in addition to the project's proposed mitigation plan and constitutes added environmental value.

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute places maximum importance on a healthy, balanced marine environment to maintain the integrity and success of our research programs. We are in the business of replenishing the ocean's endangered fish species and would not support an operation that would threaten our cause.

We have also reviewed the recently released draft Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan, which we believe to be a clear demonstration of the project's regard for the marine environment, especially the nearby lagoon which supports some endangered species.

I urge you to approve this plan and bring our region one step closer to a reliable, affordable supply of water

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donald Kent  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute

cc:

David King, Vice Chairman  
Susan Ritschel, Board Member  
Eric Anderson, Board Member  
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member  
Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Board Member  
Kris Weber, Board Member  
John Robertus, Executive Director  
Eric Becker  
Michael McCann  
John Odermatt