



March 26, 2008

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

RE: April 9, 2008 Hearing for Carlsbad Desalination Project
#R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA0109223- Agenda Item 7.

Dear Chairman Wright:

This letter is in reference to the Carlsbad Desalination. I represent the San Diego North Economic Development Council, which endorsed this vital project last year.

The San Diego North Economic Development Council, is a coalition of private and public sector entities working together to sustain and carefully grow the economic base of North County. Our members include businesses, chambers of commerce, health organizations, local governments and educational institutions. Together, we work to attract new businesses, promote economic sustainability, and improve the quality of life in North County.

San Diego's North County depends heavily on imported water supplies to sustain our population of over one million residents, as well as serve our business and agricultural sectors. With the record low rain and snow throughout the southwest and regulatory cutbacks in water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, our available water supplies have diminished, placing an enormous strain on our water resources. Unfortunately, these water resources are limited - even with aggressive recycling and conservation practices. Our agricultural industry is now facing a mandatory 30% cutback in water supplies for the foreseeable future.

Ignoring this problem is not an option; we cannot rely on the status quo any longer. San Diego County must have access to a more reliable, drought-proof, locally-controlled supply of water if our economy is to prosper and our quality of life to be sustained.



Seawater desalination is a critical component of the region's water supply strategy.

Once approved, the Carlsbad Desalination Project will provide as much as 10% of our region's water needs at no additional costs to government or taxpayers. It is a win-win for the entire county which will benefit from an abundant, affordable and environmentally-benign water supply.

Poseidon Resources' Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan before you on April 9th meets the requirements of the discharge permit the Regional Board issued in 2006. The Regional Board has the full discretion to approve the Plan and advance the project.

On behalf of our members and all of their employees, we respectfully ask the Board to finalize approval of the discharge permit. It's the right decision for the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Knight
President & CEO
North County Economic Development Corporation

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