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California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTINE KEHOE
THIRTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



- STANDING COMMITTEES:
- ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS, CHAIR
 - BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 - NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
 - TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING
- JOINT COMMITTEES:
- LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE
 - EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY
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 - LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
 - SEA GRANT ADVISORY PANEL
 - BROADBAND TASK FORCE

March 27, 2008

Richard Wright, Chairman
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

*RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project (Order No. R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA0109223)
April 9, 2008 – Agenda Item #7*

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

In 2006, I wrote the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board requesting support for the Carlsbad Desalination Project. Today, I ask that the Regional Board reaffirm its support for the project.

When the Regional Board unanimously approved the project's discharge permit in August 2006, it attached a condition that the permit include a Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan to help reduce impacts to the marine environment. I fully support this condition.

This minimization plan has been prepared and available for your review for the past year. The discharge permit and related minimization plan offer far-reaching design, technology and mitigation measures that will ensure that the plant is operated in a manner consistent with state law.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications and as a longtime member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, I know how important it is to have a reliable local water supply to serve the San Diego region's needs. This important project has enjoyed the unanimous support of the San Diego's state legislative delegation as expressed in a letter to the California Coastal Commission when they considered the issuance of the project's coastal development permit this past summer.

Chairman Wright
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I respectfully urge the RWQCB to now approve the discharge permit to help the San Diego region achieve a new, local, drought-proof water supply.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my thoughts on this important project.

Sincerely,



CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senate, 39th District

cc: David King, Vice Chair
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Board Member
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member
Susan Rischel, Board Member
Kris Weber, Board Member
John Robertus, Executive Director