



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

MAYOR
JIM WOOD

March 28, 2008

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

RE: Approval of Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan for Carlsbad Desalination Project – April 9th Agenda Item #7

Dear Chairman Wright:

The City of Oceanside submits this letter in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant (#R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA 0109223).

Oceanside has its own Water Utilities Department which purchases and delivers drinking water from the San Diego County Water Authority and operates wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Our system includes over 400 miles of pipelines, a brackish groundwater desalination plant, two wastewater treatment plants, 34 sewer lift stations and an industrial waste inspection program. The department participates in and promotes the Water Authority's conservation and recycling programs.

Unfortunately, groundwater desalination, water recycling and conservation programs alone are not sufficient to meet current water reliability needs. Consequently, Oceanside has joined with many of our neighboring public water agencies in a partnership with Poseidon Resources, the developer of the Carlsbad seawater desalination plant, to create a new, local supply of drinking water. Oceanside's Water Purchase Agreement with Poseidon Resources guarantees the city's ratepayers 5,000 acre feet annually from the Carlsbad Desalination Plant.

Over 85% of our supplies are imported from the California Bay-Delta area and the Colorado River, and environmental constraints on the delta and drought conditions along the Colorado are taking a major toll on our entire state's water supply system. Metropolitan Water District, the main supplier to the Water Authority, has already announced that San Diego County is facing cutbacks in our imported supplies, which will have immediate impacts on our agricultural industry. The City of Oceanside is taking this proactive approach to ensure it has a drought proof supply of water that will help the City guard against future reductions in our imported water supply.

We have reviewed the Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan for the project and wish to offer the following specific comments.

Poseidon Resources submitted the Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan in February 2007 to RWQCB and it has been available for public review since that time. Poseidon has revised the plan several times in response to comments from the Board, staff and public. The plan fulfills the Regional Board's requirement that Poseidon assess the feasibility of site, design, technology and mitigation measures to minimize impact to the marine environment. We believe that Poseidon's proposed mitigation approach and regulatory assurances are more than adequate for this project and should be approved.

In closing, the Carlsbad Desalination Project is a positive step in the right direction for our region's future water supply. As demonstrated in their Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan, it will be environmentally- responsible and proactive in minimizing any potential impacts. The City of Oceanside respectfully requests that you vote in favor of this badly-needed project.

Sincerely,



JIM WOOD
Mayor

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