



**MWD**  
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD

2008 APR -2 P 3: 50

Executive Office

April 2, 2008

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

Dear Chairman Wright:

Support for Carlsbad Seawater Desalination Project

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California joins the San Diego County Water Authority in supporting the development of seawater desalination in Carlsbad as part of a diversified water portfolio for San Diego County.

Metropolitan's service area supports over 18 million people and an over \$800 billion dollar economy. Southern California's Integrated Water Resources Plan calls for a diverse resource mix in order to provide supply reliability for Metropolitan's service area. This plan sets regional targets for conservation, recycling, groundwater recovery and other resources, including 150,000 acre-feet of seawater desalination by 2025. Implementation of the proposed Carlsbad Seawater Desalination Plant would help secure supply reliability in the San Diego region against uncertainties such as the recent federal court rulings regarding protection of endangered species in the Delta, resulting in up to 30 percent reductions in State Water Project supplies this year.

Metropolitan's Board authorized financial assistance through its incentive program to support the development of this important project. Metropolitan would provide up to \$14 million annually for seawater desalination for this project, which will help reduce Southern California's reliance on imported water.

Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority are statewide leaders in water conservation, recycling, and brackish groundwater desalination. However, these accomplishments need to be complemented with other regional and local water management actions, including seawater desalination, in order to manage future challenges associated with population growth, climate change impacts, increased uncertainties in the Bay-Delta, and risk of disruptions to imported supplies due to earthquakes. The Carlsbad project is a crucial first step in developing seawater desalination as a resource for securing the region's water supply reliability.

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Thank you for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,



Stephen N. Arakawa  
Manager, Water Resource Management

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