

B. Kelley



SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

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January 21, 2009

MARK N. ROGERS
GENERAL MANAGER
JAMES L. SMYTH
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chair Richard Wright and Regional Board Members
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego – Region 9
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Request for approval of Marine Life Mitigation Plan (#R9-2008-0039) for
Carlsbad Desalination Project

Dear Chairman Wright and Members of the Board:

I am writing you on behalf of Sweetwater Authority, which provides water service to approximately 185,000 people in National City, Bonita and the western and central portions of Chula Vista, California. Sweetwater was recently named the most reliable water agency in San Diego County.

In January 2007, Sweetwater joined the City of Carlsbad and water agencies throughout the county, in signing water purchase agreements with Poseidon Resources, the developer of the Carlsbad Desalination Project. Sweetwater will purchase 2,400 acre-feet annually, which will fulfill 10 percent of our total water needs. Sweetwater already receives 25 percent of its water supply from drought resistant sources, and this purchase will increase our drought tolerant supplies to 35 percent by 2010. We recognize that while implementing water conservation and recycling measures are critical, seawater desalination is an important part of the solution to the region's long-term water reliability needs.

Sweetwater has carefully reviewed Poseidon's project, including the Marine Life Mitigation Plan, to ensure that Poseidon has done its due diligence in mitigating for all potential impacts. The mitigation plan was conceived through the cooperation of multiple agencies, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and has received approval from all other participating agencies. We are satisfied that this plan meets the standards of both the Water Code and the Coastal Act and fulfills the conditions your agency enacted when you approved the Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan in April 2008. With over ten years of analysis, review and revisions, this project is ready to move on to the construction stage.

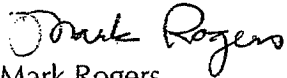
*A Public Water Agency
Serving National City, Chula Vista and Surrounding Areas*

2009 JAN 23 P 12:57
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
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The Sweetwater Authority Governing Board asks you to make the right decision and approve the Marine Life Mitigation Plan for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,



Mark Rogers
General Manager

cc: David King, Vice Chairman
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Grant Destache, Board Member
George Loveland, Board Member
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member
Gary Thompson, Board Member
Kris Weber, Board Member
John Robertus, Executive Director
Catherine Hagan, Regional Board Attorney