

From the Desk of
Don Christiansen
3715 Longview Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92010

January 21, 2009

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

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

Dear Board Members:

I am a resident of Carlsbad and I have been following the progress of the Carlsbad Desalination Project for many years.

Our region is in serious trouble when it comes to our water supplies and dependence on imported water. Not only is the entire Southwest suffering from a terrible multi-year drought, there have also been judicial decisions that have restricted the amount of water pumped from the State Water Project. Since we import almost all of our water from Northern California and the Colorado River, it is crucial that we develop a local source of water that will make us secure in the face of droughts, earthquakes and the delta smelt.

It's not often that we can look to the government for initiative and innovation. But I'm proud that the Carlsbad City Council has been extremely proactive in looking out for the needs of its citizens and the entire region. They joined in a partnership with Poseidon Resources to create a desalination facility that would supply all of Carlsbad's water needs -- at no risk or extra cost to the taxpayers.

This project has put into place many environmental protections and plans to make certain it will not do harm to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon or beaches. I take great interest in promoting sustainable energy projects and green initiatives, so Poseidon's commitment to do habitat restoration work and use energy efficient technologies is very important to me. I couldn't support this project if I felt that it wasn't being developed in a sustainable, responsible manner.

As it now stands, the project has gained every endorsement and approval it needs to be built with the exception of your Board's sign off of the Marine Life Mitigation Plan. It has been a long, slow road to get this point and I think the Carlsbad Desalination Project has done everything it needs to do to gain your approval. I appreciate your time and attention to my letter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Christiansen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Christiansen

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