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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD

January 23, 2009

2009 JAN 27 A 8:35

Chairman 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: Poseidon Resources Corporation, Carlsbad Desalination Project  
Marine Life Mitigation Plan, Resolution No. R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and Members of the Board:

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has testified several times in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Project at permit hearings held by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and other regulatory agencies. The Chamber fully supports this project and urges your approval of the Marine Life Mitigation Plan (MLMP).

We strongly believe that it is imperative that San Diego invest in our water infrastructure and develop locally-produced water sources so that we are not solely reliant on imported supplies. This public-private partnership will produce approximately 10% of our region's water, supplanting water we currently import from drought-stricken regions. New regulations and restrictions on imported water coupled with prolonged drought conditions across the state appear to make water rationing and price increases inevitable in 2009.

The desalination facility was designed to minimize impacts to marine life found in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and surrounding coastal areas. Poseidon Resources has also created a substantive, comprehensive plan to ensure it mitigates fully for the impacts that are unavoidable. This plan includes ongoing lagoon maintenance and restoration of up to 55.4 acres of wetland in Southern California.

The Chamber commends Poseidon Resource's efforts to make this project environmentally benign, while reducing our region's dependence on imported water. The MLMP clearly meets the requirements of the discharge permit you have already issued and deserves the Board's approval.

Thank you for taking our comments under consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruben Barrales'.

Ruben Barrales  
President & CEO

RB:av

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