CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

February 2, 2009

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

RE: Poseidon Resources Desalination Project

Dear Chairman Wright:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Poseidon Desalination Project proposal. As you know, California is in the third year of an extreme drought and the clear evidence of snow pack and accumulated rainfall totals at this time shows that the situation is worsening. The historic low levels of water in the state's major reservoirs are already leading to dramatic cutbacks in water deliveries and alarming predictions of further water rationing.

As a member of the Delta Vision Committee, I have advocated for broad measures to be enacted in a timely manner to address the predictable water crisis that our state faces. The negative economic, environmental and community challenges that we currently experience have already brought severe impact to many regions. The San Joaquin Valley has predicted $1.5 billion dollars in agricultural losses for 2009 due to the lack of water. San Diego regional agriculture (and consumers) already has been significantly impacted by the drought – the state's largest avocado-growing area is experiencing dramatic crop reductions as a result of water cutbacks.

I implore you and your Board to recognize the significant responsibility we all share in our leadership roles to take action towards strategic remedy. Desalination, along with conservation, water reuse, groundwater replenishment, storage and infrastructure are the methods and tools that we must embrace to have some level of flexibility in our water delivery systems statewide. We must acknowledge that perhaps one of our greatest potentialities is to utilize the enormous amount of water that sits off shore.

Please find a way to let the technologies of the day lead us to a better future that embraces our commitment to our communities and the sustainability of our environment and agriculture.

Sincerely,

A.G. Kawamura
Secretary