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Assembly California Legislature



MARY SALAS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR
VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEMBER
HEALTH
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

February 3, 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

2009 FEB - 9 P 1:56
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Plant Marine Life Mitigation Plan Resolution R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and members of the Board:

This letter is to inform you of my support for the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and to request your approval of Poseidon's Marine Life Mitigation Plan.

I represent the 79th Assembly District for the State of California and my constituents are located throughout San Diego's South Bay community, including the cities of Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, National City, Coronado and San Diego.

I am pleased to support Sweetwater Authority, which provides water to thousands of my constituents, in their bid to increase their drought tolerant supplies to 36% by 2010 in order to become less dependent on imported water. In 2006, Sweetwater Authority contracted with Poseidon Resources to purchase 2,400 acre-feet of water annually that will be produced at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant. This water will account for approximately 10% of Sweetwater's annual needs and will supply enough water for about 4,800 families each year.

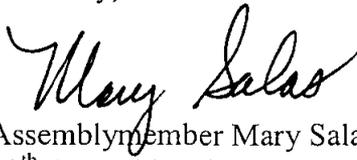
It is crucial that we have a safe and abundant drinking water supply and I have encouraged residents and local businesses to conserve water and reduce usage wherever possible. However, I realize that these efforts of conservation will only go so far in stretching our resources and a new source of potable water – seawater desalination – is a tested technology that can guarantee San Diego's future water needs are met.

The water produced will be of the highest quality, meeting or exceeding all drinking water regulatory standards under the law and it is also guaranteed never to cost more than the rates set by the San Diego County Water Authority, ensuring that Sweetwater won't have to pass on excessively high water rates to their customers.

This project has gone through rigorous testing and public scrutiny to ensure that it will be environmentally friendly and efficiently operated. The project developers have made every effort to comply with state and federal environmental regulations and have long since proved their project will not harm the Agua Hedionda Lagoon or ocean. In fact, their proposed mitigation measures will restore more than 55 acres of wetlands habitat and will provide for the annual maintenance of the lagoon.

I'm proud to support this successful public-private partnership between Poseidon Resources with the City of Carlsbad and I urge you to approve its Marine Life Mitigation Plan.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Mary Salas
79th Assembly District

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