

# Assembly California Legislature

February 25, 2009

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

Attention: Chairman Richard Wright

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project

Dear Chairman Wright:

We are collectively writing to urge your approval of the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

San Diego County, and its 3 million residents, lack a reliable, drought-proof water supply. While the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) has made great strides in promoting water conservation and recycling programs, we still currently import 85% of our water from the Colorado River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, through the Metropolitan Water District.

The SDCWA adopted an Urban Water Management Plan that identifies desalination as a critical component of its plan to diversify local supplies and reduce the burden on imported sources. The Carlsbad facility is integrally linked to state and regional efforts to supplement existing water supplies and is a critical component of San Diego County's future health and economic prosperity.

The project has undergone close to ten years of planning and research to ensure that it is an environmentally responsible solution to the region's water needs. The City of Carlsbad certified the environmental document in 2006, concluding that there are no significant impacts for both the construction and on-going operation of the plant related to thirteen different areas studied, including marine impacts.

All of the water produced by the facility will be appropriated for public use through long-term water purchase agreements with nine public agencies – subscribed for the next 30 years. These water purchase agreements provide important ratepayer protections by guaranteeing the quantity, quality, reliability, and price of water.

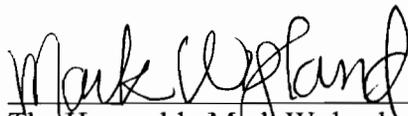
Drought conditions and the environmental impacts of climate change coupled with the looming legal constraints placed on the Colorado River mandate a strategy to diversify San Diego's water portfolio. Desalination is just one part of the solution, but it's a critical part that must be pursued. To this end, we cannot afford further delays of this critical

water infrastructure project. On its first opportunity, we request that the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board approve Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,



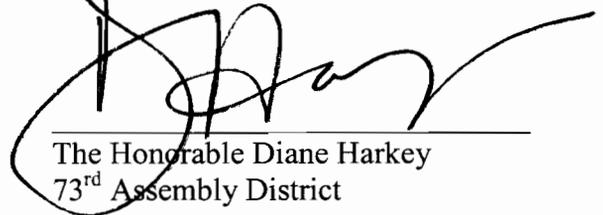
The Honorable Martin Garrick  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Mark Wyland  
38<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The Honorable Denise Ducheny  
40<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The Honorable Diane Harkey  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth  
36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The Honorable Joel Anderson  
77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



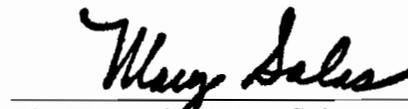
The Honorable Marty Block  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Kevin Jeffries  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Nathan Fletcher  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Mary Salas  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Cc:

Board Member David King

Board Member Eric Anderson

Board Member Wayne Rayfield

Board Member Kris Weber

Board Member Grant Destache

Board Member George Loveland

Board Member Gary Thompsen

Board Member Mark Luker

Executive Officer John Robertus