

Michelle M.



Supporting Documents No. 9

January 19, 2009

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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

**Re: Carlsbad Desalination Project (# R9-2008-0039)**

Dear Chairman Wright,

Since 1923, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has been working to promote a favorable business climate at the local, state and federal levels. We make certain the business perspective is heard on a variety of critical issues that affect our local economy. Currently, the Chamber represents more than 1,700 business members that employ over 75,000 employees.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and many of its many members have written and testified at public hearings numerous times on behalf of the Carlsbad Desalination Project during the past few years.

As you know, San Diego County must import almost 90% of our water much of it from Northern California. Our state is in the midst of a drought crisis made even more untenable by the environmental restrictions that have curtailed water usage from the Bay Delta. This has already impacted our agricultural sector tremendously and may soon affect every San Diego resident and business with mandatory water rationing, including one of the main economic engines in North County - tourism.

The Chamber believes that developing an environmentally responsible solution to the region's water needs is a key component to achieving the goal of water reliability. San Diego needs this project urgently so we can have our own locally-produced, drought-resistant supplies.

The Chamber has endorsed this project and we request that you approve their Marine Life Mitigation Plan at your February 11, 2009 public hearing.

Sincerely,

Ted Owen  
President and CEO

cc:

David King, Vice Chairman  
Eric Anderson, Board Member  
Grant Destache, Board Member  
George Loveland, Board Member  
Catherine Hagan, Regional Board Attorney

Wayne Rayfield, Board Member  
Gary Thompson, Board Member  
Kris Weber, Board Member  
John Robertus, Executive Director

