

cc: [handwritten signature]



SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD
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March 27, 2008

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

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project - #R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA 0109223 - April 9, 2008, Agenda Item #7

Dear Chairman Wright:

I am writing you on behalf of the Sweetwater Authority, the water agency for much of southern San Diego County. Sweetwater provides safe, reliable water service to approximately 180,000 people in National City, Bonita and the western and central portions of Chula Vista, California. Sweetwater was recently named the most reliable water agency in San Diego County.

Last year, Sweetwater joined the City of Carlsbad and water agencies throughout the county, in signing water purchase agreements with Poseidon Resources, the developer of the Carlsbad Desalination Project. We are moving aggressively to augment our long-standing commitment to water conservation, water recycling and brackish water demineralization with a new, locally controlled drought-proof supply of potable water from the Pacific Ocean. While we have instituted many conservation measures with our customers, we believe that seawater desalination is an important part of the solution to the region's long-term water reliability needs.

Sweetwater has contracted to buy 2,400 acre foot annually, which will fulfill 10% of our total water needs. Sweetwater already receives 26% of its water supply from drought resistant sources (wells and brackish water desalination), and this purchase will increase our drought tolerant supplies to 36% by 2010.

Poseidon Resources' desalination project has gained enthusiastic support from water agencies, cities, businesses, residents, and elected officials, including our entire state and federal delegation. While we appreciate the due diligence that regulatory agencies have

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A Public Water Agency
Serving National City, Chula Vista and Surrounding Areas

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Richard Wright, Chairman
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
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taken to ensure this is the most environmentally-benign project possible, we believe it has been thoroughly vetted and utilizes every possible avenue for reducing impacts to the marine environment.

The Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors asks you to make the right decision and approve the Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,



R. Mitchel Beauchamp
Chair

cc:

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