



San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

March 27, 2008

Chairman Richard Wright
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 Hearing, Agenda Item #7

Dear Chairman Wright:

I'm writing today on behalf of Poseidon Resources' Carlsbad Desalination Project and asking you to approve their Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan.

I represent San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council which strives to improve the health, job safety, and economic conditions of our members and workers in the San Diego region.

In 2005, our organization joined in partnership with Poseidon Resources for the construction of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant in Carlsbad, CA. The Project Labor Agreement (PLA) we entered into means that one of the largest and most important water infrastructure projects in San Diego's history will be built with skilled and cost-effective labor from the local community.

Creating drinking water from the vast Pacific Ocean is an innovative undertaking, and we believe the Carlsbad desalination plant will be one of the region's most successful public-private partnerships. The benefits to employees, employers and the general public are enormous and we're proud to be part of the team.

The Carlsbad desalination project will have significant economic benefit for the region, including an estimated \$170 million in spending during construction, 2,100 jobs created during construction, and \$37 million in annual spending throughout the region once the desalination plant is operational.

The building trades industry has a strong record of promoting and protecting the environment. We believe that this particular project strikes the right balance between strengthening the economy and preserving the coastal marine environment, especially the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

For the region, the desalination facility will create jobs, generate tax revenue, improve water quality and enhance water reliability with a new drought-proof supply. We urge your approval of the Carlsbad Desalination Project, which will bring this region one step closer to a safe, reliable and cost-effective water supply.

Respectfully



Tom Lemmon

San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council

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cc:

David King, Vice Chairman

Susan Ritschel, Board Member

Eric Anderson, Board Member

Wayne Rayfield, Board Member

Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Board Member

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