



January 21, 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

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project - Marine Life Mitigation Plan
#R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

I am the President and CEO of the San Diego North Economic Development Council, a coalition of private and public sector organizations working together to sustain and carefully grow the economic base of North County. Our members include businesses, chambers of commerce, health organizations, local governments and educational institutions. Together, we work to attract new businesses, promote economic sustainability, and improve the quality of life in North County.

The Council voted in 2007 to endorse and promote the Carlsbad Desalination Project because we recognize the value of having a cost-certain, locally-produced water source in Carlsbad. Because of the predominance of agriculture in North County, our region is especially vulnerable to the recent restrictions in water deliveries from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and seawater desalination must be a central component of the region's water supply strategy.

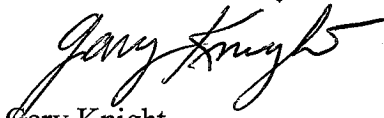
Additionally, the project will bring a tremendous economic boost to the region during construction and will generate much-needed tax revenues and increased local spending once operational.

Finally, this desalination project will employ the most energy-efficient and environmentally-sound principles in its construction and operation. Poseidon's stewardship of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, dedication of multiple acres for public use on the lagoon, and commitment to restore wetland habitat in other Southern California sites demonstrates the care and consideration this company has displayed towards our marine ecosystem.

In closing, the mitigation plan submitted to you by Poseidon Resources has been reviewed and approved by the numerous State agencies and found to meet all the requirements of those entities. On behalf of the Council and our members, I offer our full

support of the Carlsbad Desalination Project and ask you to approve its Marine Life Mitigation Plan at your February 11 public hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Knight". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "G" and "K".

Gary Knight
President & CEO
North County Economic Development Corporation

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