



VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT

A PUBLIC AGENCY

201 Vallecitos de Oro • San Marcos, California • 92069-1453 Telephone (760)744-0460

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: #R9-2008-0039 – Marine Life Mitigation Plan

Dear Chairman Wright and Board members:

On behalf of the Vallecitos Water District (Vallecitos) and our Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer our endorsement of the Carlsbad Desalination Project and its Marine Life Mitigation Plan.

Since 1995, Vallecitos has provided water, wastewater and reclamation services to more than 80,000 customers in San Marcos, the community of Lake San Marcos and parts of Carlsbad, Escondido, and Vista. Our district has contracted with Poseidon Resources to purchase 7,500 AFY once the desalination plant is operational. This will provide more than 44% of our district's water usage, reducing our need for imported water substantially.

Currently, the project has received all necessary approvals from the State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission and other regulatory bodies. These agencies, along with Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, participated in the creation of the project's Marine Life Mitigation Plan. The plan details Poseidon's intentions to implement a performance based plan for restoration of 55.4 acres of marine wetlands, modeled after the Coastal Commission's hugely successful mitigation program for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The plan fulfills all requirements set by the Board in their conditional approval of the project's Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan in April 2008.

With the recent cutbacks in San Diego's imported water supplies, Vallecitos is eager to see this project progress towards construction as soon as possible. We urge the Regional Water Quality Control Board to accept and approve Poseidon's Marine Life Mitigation Plan as submitted at your February 11 public hearing.

Sincerely,

William W. Rucker, General Manager
Vallecitos Water District

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