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Supporting Document No. 17

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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 (#R9-2008-0039)

Dear Chairman Wright and Members of the Board:

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District has thoroughly reviewed the Marine Life Mitigation Plan (MLMP) for the Carlsbad Desalination Project and would like to offer our support of the plan.

Established in 1959, Olivenhain provides safe and reliable water, recycled water, wastewater treatment and hydroelectricity in the most cost-effective, environmentally responsive and service-oriented manner. Olivenhain serves approximately 58,000 residential, industrial, and commercial customers in North San Diego County. Our 48-square mile service area includes parts of Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Diego, Solana Beach, and San Marcos as well as the communities of Olivenhain, Leucadia, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch.

In order to reduce our District's dependence on imported water, Olivenhain has joined eight other San Diego County public water agencies in signing long-term water purchase agreements for desalinated water from Poseidon Resources. We believe that we must diversify our water supply options to reduce our vulnerability to water delivery disruptions and provide a more stable water system in San Diego. With a deficit of natural groundwater supplies, we believe that desalination is the only practical and cost-efficient method available. Any further delays of the Carlsbad Desalination Project will have a negative impact on the stability of San Diego's water supply.

Olivenhain has thoroughly reviewed the Carlsbad Desalination Project's Marine Life Mitigation Plan and we are confident in giving it our endorsement. The plan ensures that Poseidon will mitigate extensively for any impingement and entrainment impacts in the lagoon. We believe that this plan, which has been broadly vetted among the appropriate State regulators, is well conceived and should be approved at your next meeting.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Thorner
General Manager

2009 JAN 23 P 1:00

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

