



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: Resolution No. R9-2008-0039; Carlsbad Desalination Project

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

As President of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, I respectfully request that the Regional Water Quality Control Board approve the Marine Life Mitigation Plan (MLMP) for the Carlsbad Desalination Project at your February 11, 2009 meeting.

The Foundation was created to promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, marsh, wetlands and watershed area. We strive to protect sensitive land through acquisition or other means and promote balanced recreational and commercial uses that ensure the long-term health and vitality of the lagoon.

As such, the Foundation has carefully reviewed the Carlsbad Desalination Project and its MLMP to ensure that it adequately addresses and mitigates for any potential impacts on the lagoon marine life.

In May of last year, the Foundation had the benefit of hosting an interagency meeting - a collaborative effort that was directed by the Regional Board - to review and develop the MLMP. The meeting we hosted involved eight state agencies including Regional Board, Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission staff and the Department of Fish and Game. That meeting led to the development of a performance-based, site specific MLMP with 11 candidate mitigation sites. With the Foundation in full support, the MLMP was then approved by the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission in August 2008.

The Foundation concluded that the Marine Life Mitigation Plan fulfills all the requirements of the conditional permit that the Regional Water Quality Control Board approved last year and provides full protection of the marine environment.

The Foundation's priority is and always will be the well-being of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the surrounding marine habitat. We know that Poseidon Resources and their Carlsbad Desalination Project will be a good neighbor to the lagoon. Not only have they pledged annual funding to support our elementary school educational program,



Academy for Environmental Stewardship, but they have also made a commitment to be the steward for the lagoon once power plant operations conclude. Their efforts will ensure that the lagoon will continue to provide a sanctuary for marine life as well as a clean, safe lagoon for the public to enjoy.

Their Marine Life Mitigation Plan extends the benefits of a clean watershed and healthy ecosystem to wetlands in other parts of Southern California and we urge you to approve the plan without delay.

Respectfully,

Eric Munoz, President
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

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