



SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO 2011 FEB 28 A 9:58

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HUESO

DISTRICT EIGHT

Doc Scanned On: 2/28/11  
A-Ernst Time: 10:27  
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September 9, 2010

Honorable Chair King and Board Members  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

RE: **November 10, 2010 Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting  
Agenda Item - Selection of a Mitigation Site for the Carlsbad Desalination Project**

Dear Chair King and Board Members:

As San Diego City Council President, I am writing to support Poseidon Resources' proposed selection of the Otay River Floodplain as the candidate mitigation site pursuant to the Marine Life Mitigation Plan ("MLMP") associated with the Carlsbad Desalination Project. It is the highest ranked restoration site among the 12 sites under consideration, and one I am familiar with, as it is located in my council district.

The desalination project's value in helping to address our region's critical need for a reliable supply of potable water has been well documented throughout the local and state permitting process. Today, I'd like to highlight the project's unique environmental benefits and the role the project will play in helping to restore and enhance our vulnerable coastal wetlands habitat.

The MLMP establishes a plan to restore approximately 66 acres of tidal wetlands. The Otay River Floodplain site is centrally located within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent to the Otay Valley Regional Park. The proposed restoration of the site to inter and sub-tidal wetlands will have significant positive impacts on the overall health of the South San Diego Bay by establishing new marine wetlands habitat that will be beneficial to bird, fish, and plant populations within the Refuge.

I urge the Regional Board approve the selection of the Otay River Floodplain site as the preferred site for the wetland mitigation for the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

Sincerely,

Ben Hueso

cc: David Gibson

