

Michelle M

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD



2009 FEB 11 A 9:57

JERRY SANDERS  
MAYOR

February 6, 2009

Mr. Richard Wright  
Chairman  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego - Region 9  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92123

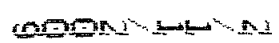
Re: Carlsbad Desalination Plant Marine Life Mitigation Plan Resolution R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and members of the Board:

I have provided the Regional Board with testimony on a number of occasions over the years in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant. I commend you for your hard work on the project's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and request that you once again affirm your support for the desalination plant.

The Carlsbad Desalination Plant's Marine Life Mitigation Plan has now been approved by the California Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission. The plan, which you are now being asked to approve, is a byproduct of the permit you issued the project back in 2006. Per the Board's April 9, 2008 resolution, this plan was subject to a lengthy interagency review process to ensure that it met all the requirements of the discharge permit you originally issued in 2006. There is no doubt that the plan and its components are fully compliant with your April resolution. Specifically, the plan is based on an independent expert's verification of entrainment and impingement impacts and provides the necessary acreage and performance criteria to fully mitigate those impacts. The plan is performance-based and site specific with eleven potential mitigation sites that were perfected in the development of the mitigation plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

I am concerned that any deviation from the Regional Board's previous direction to Poseidon on how to proceed with the mitigation requirements could unnecessarily delay the construction of a project that will provide potable water to 300,000 San Diegans. Such a decision could be catastrophic given the impact that drought conditions are having

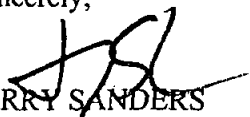


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on San Diego's water supplies. Very simply, we have less potable water and it's costing us more. Furthermore, the local economy and working families stand to benefit from the 2,100 construction jobs that this shovel-ready project will provide.

I urge your support for the Marine Life Mitigation Plan. You can approve the plan with confidence knowing that water quality standards and the coastal marine environment are fully protected.

Sincerely,

  
JERRY SANDERS  
Mayor  
San Diego

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