

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

2008 APR - 1 A 10: 19

March 27, 2008

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Attention: Richard Wright, Chair 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project, # R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA0109223, April 9, 2008 Hearing, Agenda Item #7

Dear Chairman Wright:

For the past 43 years, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has worked to develop a diverse, technology-driven economy throughout San Diego County. We focus our resources on issues of regional competitiveness, actively pursuing the growth and expansion of high-wage, high-growth industries.

Because San Diego County is entirely dependent on imported water, our economic prosperity greatly relies on having an affordable, dependable water supply. EDC shares the belief held by Governor Schwarzenegger and members of the state legislature that desalination will help meet these needs, ensuring that infrastructure will be adequate to accommodate future population growth while providing valuable economic benefits to the region.

Direct economic benefits will include an estimated \$170 million in spending during construction, 2,100 jobs created during construction, and \$37 million in annual spending throughout the county once the desalination plant is operational. For the entire region, the desalination facility will create jobs, generate tax revenue, improve water quality and enhance water reliability with a new drought-proof supply.

EDC would like to offer its full support of the Carlsbad desalination plant. We believe that this project will provide San Diego with the diverse, reliable, environmentally-sound water supply that it desperately needs.

Your Board has already issued a discharge permit for this project. Poseidon Resources is complying with the permit's conditions by submittal of its Flow, Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan. The plan identifies feasible mitigation opportunities and provides regulatory assurances that the implementation of the mitigation plan will continue to be subject to a state-agency's coordinated process to ensure the best available mitigation feasible.

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We urge the Board to vote to accept this plan at your April 9th hearing. Doing so will move our region one step closer to an affordable, high quality water supply.

Sincerely,

Julie Meier Wright President & CEO

cc:

David King, Vice Chairman
Susan Ritschel, Board Member
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member
Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Board Member
Kris Weber, Board Member
John Robertus, Executive Director
Eric Becker
Michael McCann
John Odermatt