



January 19, 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

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

Re: Carlsbad Desalination Project, Resolution No. R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and Board Members:

This letter is on behalf of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI), an independent, non-profit, scientific research institution founded in 1963. Our research focuses on gaining scientific knowledge and finding practical solutions to the most critical conservation challenges facing marine ecosystems and species.

HSWRI operates the Leon Raymond Hubbard, Jr. Marine Fish Hatchery, which is designed to replenish stocks of coastal fish that have been depleted by overfishing and habitat loss. To date, HSWRI has successfully cultured, tagged and released more than 1.4 million seabass into Southern California waters. We operate out of a 20,000-square-foot hatchery on the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad, CA and the success of our operations is entirely dependent on the pristine conditions of the man-made lagoon.

As President of HSWRI and Co-Principal Investigator on the hatchery program, I have previously provided written and oral comments on the Carlsbad Desalination Project. I have reviewed the project and related project documentation to ensure it will not affect our fishery replenishment program or other onsite research. Accordingly, HSWRI supports acceptance of the measures proposed by Carlsbad Desalination Project that will ensure the continued viability of the Lagoon and the surrounding environs.

Poseidon's Marine Life Mitigation Plan was carefully constructed with the cooperation of several state agencies and is consistent with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's direction. The mitigation that Poseidon has proposed is substantial and is a performance-based, site specific MLMP with eleven candidate mitigation sites. Overall, Poseidon has demonstrated a deep concern for the welfare of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the surrounding marine environment, and I believe that their Marine Life Mitigation Plan is thorough and comprehensive.

I cannot offer any concern that would prevent your approval of this plan at your meeting on February 11th.

Respectfully,

Donald Kent
President and Chief Executive Officer

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M. Carvajal Time: 12:08

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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