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JOEL ANDERSON
SENATOR
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



November 28, 2012

Thomas V. Wornham, Chair
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project – Water Purchase Agreement

I am writing to express my appreciation for the tremendous work that the San Diego County Water Authority has dedicated to reaching this water purchase agreement. It is a milestone that needs to be recognized as a major step in reducing our reliance on imported water.

Water will continue to be one of the biggest issues our region faces in the coming years. Our county currently imports almost 90% of our supplies from sources coping with wide-scale drought, as well as other environmental and legal constraints. Conservation mandates and current wastewater recycling systems simply cannot compensate for the water restrictions that have already been imposed on my constituents. I believe we need to look to seawater desalination to supplement our local water sources and reduce our overdependence on imported supplies.

The Carlsbad Desalination Project will be the first step towards securing our region's water supply and diversifying our portfolio with 50 million gallons per day (56,000 acre-feet-per-year) of high-quality, locally-produced, drought-proof drinking water. The project has been designed to be energy-efficient and includes numerous protections for the nearby marine habitat.

In addition to diversifying our water supply, this project is a public-private partnership that eliminates all financial risks for taxpayers and will provide numerous economic benefits for the region, including hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in annual spending and tax revenues. Given the current fiscal recession and high unemployment throughout our state, we need to actively promote large-scale, privately-funded infrastructure projects such as these.

San Diego desperately needs the supplies of water, revenue and jobs this project will provide for the region. The Carlsbad Desalination Project has my full and complete support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson".

Joel Anderson
State Senator

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