

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0074
(916) 319-2074
FAX (916) 319-2174

DISTRICT OFFICE
1910 PALOMAR POINT WAY, SUITE 106
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 929-7998
FAX (760) 929-7999

EMAIL
assemblymember.garrick@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



MARTIN GARRICK
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH

November 9, 2012

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

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project – Water Purchase Agreement

Dear Tom,

After more than a decade of planning and permitting, I am pleased to see that our region is close to realizing the widespread benefits of this project throughout San Diego County and for the residents in the many cities I represent, including Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Diego, San Marcos, Solana Beach and Vista. I want to commend the San Diego County Water Authority for crafting an agreement that is balanced and fair, having Poseidon assume all financial risks associated with construction and operating budget cost overruns, with the Authority paying only for water that is delivered meeting contractual specifications for quality, reliability, quantity and price.

In the coming years, San Diegans will continue to face the issue of uncertain water supply and drought. It is important to take active steps to mandate water conservation, as well as explore indirect potable reuse options. I also believe that desalination as an additional source that needs serious consideration in order to reduce our over-independence on imported supplies.

Additionally, it is critical to look ahead at the economic impact that this project will have on our county. Construction of this project will pump millions of dollars into the local economy, as well as create hundreds of new jobs in the desalination, engineering, construction and service industries. Most importantly, once construction is completed, the project will ensure that critical industries such as biotechnology, manufacturing and tourism will have a reliable supply.

This project is well-designed and supported by sound science, environmentally friendly, and is well-vetted. Over the years, legal challenges have led to cost increases as a result of the number of frivolous lawsuits filed against this project. San Diego is in dire need of the water this facility will produce to ensure the prosperity of our local economy and the security of our residents. Before more costly delays impact the construction schedule, I urge the CWA board to approve the Carlsbad Desalination Water Purchase Agreement.

Sincerely,

MARTIN GARRICK
Assemblyman, 74th District

Representing the communities of: Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Vista and portions of Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego