



BILL HORN

SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 25, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CARLSBAD DESALINATION PROJECT (DISTRICT: 5)

SUMMARY:

Overview:

San Diego County imports more than 85% of its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project. Due to recent drought conditions, the County is facing shortages and reductions in the imported water supply. The Carlsbad Desalination Project will provide the region with 50 million gallons per day (56,000 acre-feet-per-year) of high-quality, environmentally-sensitive, drinking water.

Recommendation(s):

SUPERVISOR HORN:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to draft a letter for signature by the Chairman to the State Lands Commission and the California Coastal Commission in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Project.
2. Approve attached Resolution supporting the Carlsbad Desalination Project

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement:

N/A

Advisory Board Statement:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

San Diego County imports more than 85% of its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project, and the County's imported water supplies are threatened by environmental and legal constraints. The record-setting drought conditions in Southern California and along the Colorado River, and the pending court-ordered shutdown of the State Water

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Project pumps could reduce up to 30% of San Diego County's imported water supply. The San Diego County Water Authority's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan is designed to protect the County against drought conditions and disruptions to the region's imported water supply, and therefore identifies a need for 56,000 acre-feet-per-year of desalinated seawater by 2011.

The Carlsbad Desalination Project will provide the region with 50 million gallons per day (56,000 acre-feet-per-year) of high-quality, environmentally-sensitive, drought-proof drinking water. The San Diego County Water Authority has approved a resolution in support of the Carlsbad Desalination Project, and has identified the desalination plant as a critical component of the region's water diversification strategy. The Carlsbad Desalination project will provide San Diego with approximately 10% of the County's drinking water supply – equal to the average annual yield from all of the County's reservoirs combined.

The Water Authority adopted a Drought Management Plan that provides incentives to its member agencies to pursue conservation, reclamation and desalination in an effort to develop new, local drought-proof supplies. Nine San Diego County public water agencies – Carlsbad Municipal Water District, Valley Center Municipal Water District, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District, Sweetwater Authority, Rainbow Municipal Water District, Vallecitos Water District, the Santa Fe Irrigation District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District and the Oceanside Municipal Water District - have entered, or are negotiating, long-term purchase agreements to receive desalinated water from the Carlsbad desalination plant.

The facility is being built through a public-private partnership between the aforementioned public water agencies and Poseidon Resources Corporation, and is being permitted, designed, financed and constructed at no expense to the City of Carlsbad, local water agencies or any other governmental entity. The facility will provide enough high quality drinking water to serve 300,000 residents throughout the cities, communities and unincorporated areas of San Diego County, which will diversify our local water supplies and reduce our overdependence on imported water. A reliable, drought-proof water supply is critical to San Diego County's economic stability and public health. The facility will contribute to the health and well-being of the adjacent Agua Hedionda Lagoon through ongoing maintenance and monitoring, ensuring the future health of the lagoon and public coastal access and recreation.

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Respectfully submitted,

BILL HORN
Supervisor, Fifth District

