

California Legislature



October 19, 2010

The Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Abel Maldonado
The Honorable State Controller John Chiang
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Re: *Support - Huntington Beach Desalination Project*

Dear State Lands Commissioners:

We are collectively writing you to urge your approval of the Huntington Beach Desalination Project. The Project is on the Commission's Friday, October 29th agenda and your approval will move this critical water infrastructure project one step closer to construction.

Today, due to enhanced conservation efforts, the County's three million-plus residents are using less water per capita than at anytime in recent history. These conservation efforts coupled with our internationally-renowned Groundwater Replenishment System have made Orange County a leader in sustainable water reliability practices. Still, Orange County must import 50 percent of its water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project in order to meet the demands of our constituents and to keep our economy strong.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Urban Water Management Plan identifies seawater desalination as a critical component of its plan to diversify the County's water supply and reduce demand on imported water. The Huntington Beach desalination Project has undergone 10 years of planning and research and on September 7, 2010 the City of Huntington Beach certified the Project's Environmental Impact Report, concluding there are no significant impacts for both the construction and operation of the project related to thirteen different areas studied, including marine impacts.

The Project will not only provide Orange County with a new, drought-proof water supply, it will also create over 2,000 jobs during construction while providing approximately \$200 million in local economic stimulus. All of the water will be appropriated for public use through long-term water purchase agreements with public water agencies. These water purchase agreements provide important ratepayer protections by guaranteeing the quantity, quality, reliability and price of the water.

In conclusion, in 2008 the State Lands Commission voted unanimously to approve Poseidon Resources' seawater desalination project in the city of Carlsbad, CA. Orange County deserves the same opportunity granted to San Diego County to address drought conditions and regulatory constraints on imported water by building a locally-controlled seawater desalination plant.

The Huntington Beach Desalination Project is a critically needed and environmentally-responsible solution to the County's water supply needs. We urge your immediate approval.


Sincerely,



State Senator Robert Huff
29th District



State Senator Lou Correa
34th District



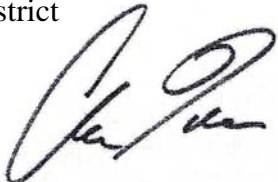
State Senator Mark Wyland
38th District



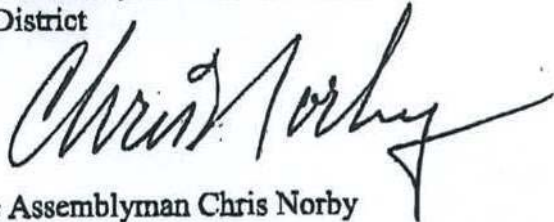
State Assemblyman Curt Hagman
60th District



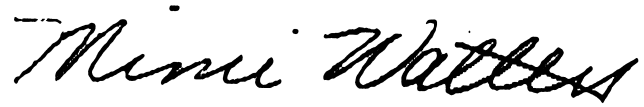
State Assemblyman Van Tran
68th District



State Assemblyman Chuck Devore
70th District



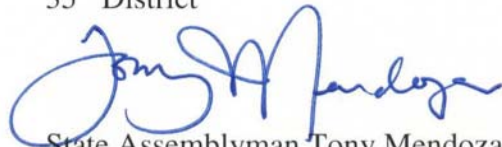
State Assemblyman Chris Norby
72nd District



State Senator Mimi Walters
33rd District



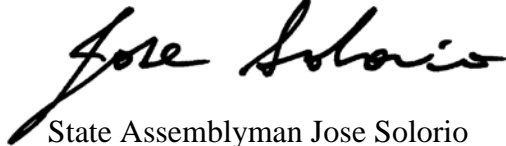
State Senator Tom Harman
35th District



State Assemblyman Tony Mendoza
56th District



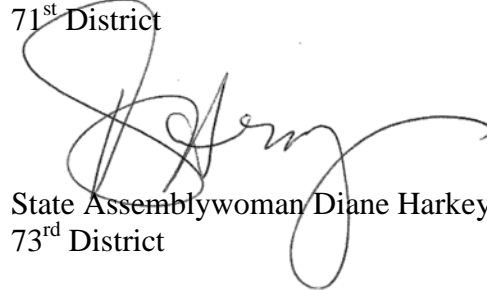
State Assemblyman Jim Silva
67th District



State Assemblyman Jose Solorio
69th District



State Assemblyman Jeff Miller
71st District



State Assemblywoman Diane Harkey
73rd District