



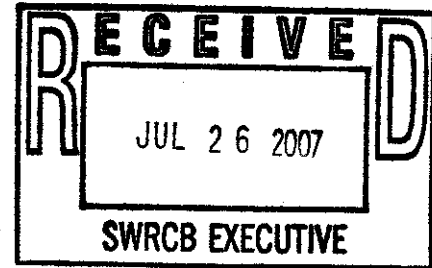
San Diego County Water Authority

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(858) 522-6600 FAX (858) 522-6568 www.sdcwa.org

July 26, 2007

Via U.S. and Electronic Mail

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair & Members
State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Office
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Ms. Song Her, Clerk to the Board
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



MEMBER AGENCIES

- Carlsbad Municipal Water District
- City of Del Mar
- City of Escondido
- City of National City
- City of Oceanside
- City of Poway
- City of San Diego
- Fallbrook Public Utility District
- Helix Water District
- Olivewood Municipal Water District
- Olney Water District
- Pasadena Municipal Water District
- Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base
- Rainbow Municipal Water District
- Romona Municipal Water District
- Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
- San Dieguito Water District
- Santa Fe Irrigation District
- South Bay Irrigation District
- Vallecitos Water District
- Valley Center Municipal Water District
- Vista Irrigation District
- Yuma Municipal Water District

OTHER REPRESENTATIVE

- County of San Diego

RE: Support for Alternative 1, No Action, California Ocean Plan Amendment

Dear Ms. Doduc:

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) wishes to comment on the Ocean Plan Amendment, "Issue 10. Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal." After reviewing the proposed amendment, we request that Alternative 1, No Action, be selected in determining the future of the existing Ocean Plan.

The Water Authority is the regional water wholesaler serving San Diego County. Currently, the Water Authority provides 75 to 90 percent of the county's water; and approximately 78 percent of this supply is imported. The Water Authority's mission is to provide a safe and reliable water supply to support the region's \$150 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents. New water supplies are a critical issue facing this region. We will add nearly one million more people by 2030 and 60 percent of those people will be births within the county. Current dry conditions statewide coupled with ongoing drought on the Colorado River, and the Delta fishery issues, all accentuate the need to develop reliable local supplies in our region. New reliable water supplies are essential to our ability to maintain our regional economy and our quality of life.

Seawater desalination is a key component of the Water Authority's diversification strategy to meet the region's water supply reliability needs. Along with one of the most aggressive water conservation efforts in California (averaging 44,000 acre-feet per year over the past five years) and continued implementation of water recycling and the recovery of brackish groundwater, the Water Authority is counting on seawater desalination as part of its future water supply portfolio. By 2020, seawater desalination is projected to account for up to 10 percent of the Water Authority's total supply.

A public agency providing a safe and reliable water supply to the San Diego region

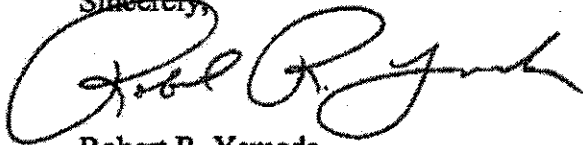
Tam M. Doduc
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The Water Authority recommends that the Board select Alternative 1, No Action. The current Ocean Plan already has sufficient criteria in place to regulate brine discharges and protect the environment. It would be premature at this point for staff to recommend Alternative 2. This action could lead to the establishment of unsubstantiated standards that would potentially impede the continued development of desalination projects.

As project development continues in California, good public policy would suggest that we obtain more data and experience before we begin amending the Ocean Plan.

Please let me know if you need any assistance or additional information regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Yamada". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert R. Yamada
Water Resources Manager

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