



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI

July 31, 2008

Patrick Kruer, Chairman
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Poseidon Desalinization Project

Dear Chairman Kruer:

There appears to be confusion over the issue of achieving a carbon neutral desalinization project. I want you to know my views on this issue.

I believe that the greenhouse gas emission resulting from the project should be mitigated. In determining the amount of mitigation, the calculation should be based on the assumption that the water delivered to the contracting water agencies *replaces* water that the water agencies currently and in the future would received from Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The amount of mitigation is therefore the net not the gross power consumed.

The argument that the desalinization's plant water is new water is based upon the assumption that the replaced water would be used elsewhere in the MWD service area. Even if this were true, it is not the desalinization's plant to mitigate that new use. It is the responsibility of the entity that receives that water. Furthermore, the most likely scenario is that the replaced water will stay in the river as ordered by the federal courts.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Paul Thayer, State Lands Commission