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Carlsbad City Council Certifies Desalination Plant Environment Impact Report

Unanimous vote caps 396 days of environmental review

Carlsbad, CA ó The City of Carlsbad's City Council last night voted unanimously (4-0) to certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and approve local land use permits for the Carlsbad desalination plant being developed by Poseidon Resources Corporation.

Poseidon has been working with the City of Carlsbad since 1998 on a public-private partnership to construct a 50-million-gallon-per-day (MGD) plant at the site of the Encina Power Station. The public review period of the environmental process extended over a 396-day period. In approving the project, City Councilwoman Norine Sigafoose said, "this is really a historical decision."

"The residents of Carlsbad and the entire region have been well served by the City Council," said Peter MacLaggan Senior Vice President for Poseidon Resources. "Coupled with the City's aggressive conservation and reclamation efforts, the desalination plant will ensure Carlsbad has a drought-proof supply of high quality water to address the needs of local residents, businesses and farmers."

In approving the project's development plan and certifying the EIR, the City Council concluded there are no significant, unavoidable impacts for both the construction and on-going operation of the plant related to thirteen different areas studied. The hearing was attended by a large crowd, with almost every resident of Carlsbad in attendance voicing support for the project. Supporters of the public-private partnership who attended the hearing or wrote letters of support include the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, the San Diego County Farm Bureau, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, organized labor, community leaders, elected officials and several dozen citizens of Carlsbad.

"Creating a locally-controlled water supply is more than a good idea, it's a responsible course to take for the region," said Eric Larson, executive director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau.

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to obtain the plant's ocean water discharge permit from the Board. The Board held an informational hearing the morning after the permit was issued. Prior to the hearing, the Board decided to postpone issuing the permit until the public had the opportunity to review additional regulations Poseidon had offered to ensure there was an over-abundance of water quality and marine ecosystem protections in place. The State's Regional Water Quality Control Board is scheduled to consider the permit issuance at its next regularly scheduled hearing in August, 2006.

In October 2004, Poseidon and the City of Carlsbad entered into a water purchase agreement that provides Carlsbad with a high quality, locally-controlled, affordable supply of water. Under the agreement, Poseidon will provide the City of Carlsbad with its entire daily requirement for water, up to 25 MGD, and assume all risks and responsibility for the financing, development, construction and operation of the project.

Following Carlsbad, the Valley Center Municipal Water District and the Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District each entered into water purchase agreements with Poseidon. Together, water purchase agreements with the three San Diego County water districts account for nearly 60% of the plant's total output.

Once operational, the Carlsbad desalination plant will provide enough drinking water to serve 300,000 residents annually at a guaranteed price, at no financial risk to taxpayers. The plant is scheduled to be completed and producing potable water by 2009.

Poseidon Resources specializes in developing and financing water infrastructure projects, primarily seawater desalination and water treatment plants. These projects are implemented through innovative public-private partnerships in which private enterprise assumes the developmental and financial risks. For more information on Poseidon Resources and the Carlsbad desalination plant visit our website at www.carlsbad-desal.com.

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