



TONI G. ATKINS
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Steve Kinsey
Chairman, California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: *Huntington Beach Desalination Project*

Dear Chairman Kinsey:

I am writing to encourage the Commission to deem Poseidon's Huntington Beach Desalination Project's recently re-submitted application complete.

On April 1, 2015, following the lowest snowpack ever recorded, Governor Brown issued an executive order that has helped save water, increase enforcement to prevent wasteful water use, streamlined the state's drought response and encouraged local investment in new technologies that will make California more drought resilient. It is imperative that the state's aggressive water conservation efforts are matched by the development of new local drinking water supplies, and that state agencies address permit applications for new water supply projects with a sense of urgency.

The Huntington Beach Desalination Project will produce 50 million gallons of water per day - enough drinking water for 300,000 Orange County residents - and has been under consideration by the Commission since 2006, when the coastal development permit application was first submitted. New drinking water supplies like the desalination facility are needed on a regional level to address current emergency conditions but also to protect regional water resources from the long-term effects of drought and climate change.

I applaud the Coastal Commission for its comprehensive study of the project over the years. The Commission's independent scientific panel has thoroughly evaluated the seawater intake technology issues that were raised by the Commissioners when the project was originally considered in November 2013. Given the Coastal Commission's lengthy evaluation of the project, I encourage the Commission and its staff to deem the permit application complete and to schedule a hearing as soon as the Commission's schedule allows.

I thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

TONI G. ATKINS
Speaker of the Assembly

cc: Charles Lester, Executive Director