

CALIFORNIA WATER WARS

Move forward on desalination

The O.C. grand jury report that calls Orange County's need for seawater desalination "dire" hits the nail on the head ["Grand Jury: Time to move on desalination plants," June 7]. Poseidon Water has been working for more than a decade to secure the government approvals necessary to build a state-of-the-art seawater desalination plant in Huntington Beach that will reduce the county's demand on imported water and protect against drought and natural disaster.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County and Orange County Water District deserve praise. Both public agencies have demonstrated leadership and have been instrumental in moving the desalination project toward the finish line. OCWD is now evaluating a public-private partnership with Poseidon to deliver the project in the most cost-effective way, and Poseidon is committed to a partnership that ensures an environmentally responsible and technologically advanced project that produces a new drinking water supply that is affordable for ratepayers.

As the grand jury noted, for the price of a cup of coffee (albeit a Starbucks Venti), O.C. residents can rest assured that they will have a reliable drought-proof drinking water supply that is available rain or shine 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Scott Maloni

Huntington Beach
vice president, Poseidon
Water



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Freshwater is pumped up into the ocean through a slant well drilled at the mouth of San Juan Creek by the Municipal Water District of Orange County. The tapped water is the product of a test study called South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project.

MAKE CONSERVATION A FOCUS, TOO

By all means, build desalination plants in Huntington Beach and Dana Point. They should be brought online as quickly as possible, not only because of a possible disruption in the water supply (earthquake, etc.), but because we will need the water.

There seems to be no end to the building of new residential developments in the county, in spite of record drought, the Delta baitfish situation and the long-term drought condition affecting the Colorado River.

But in the interim, why are we growing grass? This is a

desert, and we should be dealing with this water-intensive situation like Tucson, Phoenix and Las Vegas dealt with it long ago. At the very least, we should ban the watering of grass, with wasteful automatic sprinklers, between the sidewalk and the curb. This represents a tremendous waste of water that should be stopped at once.

Joe Phelps
Irvine

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE HAD THEIR SAY

Thank God for common sense finally emerging through all the rhetoric coming from environmentalists.

The environmentalists have had their say now it's time to get these facilities permitted and approved and start construction.

Next time you take a nice cold glass of water, we can thank these jurists for their common sense. While we're at it maybe they can also make some common sense decisions on taking advantage of the infrastructure in place at San Onofre so that in the future, when we have those 100-degree-plus days, we can rely on electricity to maintain our modern lives and keep the lights on.

Bill Ring
Mission Viejo