

November 12, 2024

**VIA EMAIL: DWQ-OCEANDESAL@WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV**

Ocean Desalination  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Potential Amendments to Seawater Desalination Provisions of California Ocean Plan

Dear Ocean Desalination Team:

We write to express our strong support for the facilitation and development of new desalination plants in California. We represent a broad array of interests and enterprises with a vested interest in a consistent, reliable and sustainable supply of potable water in California. As our state continues to face severe drought conditions and increasing water scarcity, it is imperative that we explore and implement sustainable solutions to secure our water future. In particular, we encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to operationalize the key recommendations from the 2023 Seawater Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report to Expedite Permitting.

Desalination offers a reliable and drought-resistant source of fresh water, which is crucial for maintaining the health, economy, and environment of California. By converting seawater into potable water, desalination plants can significantly alleviate the pressure on our overburdened freshwater resources and provide a stable supply of water for both urban and agricultural needs.

Moreover, advancements in desalination technology have made the process more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. Modern desalination plants are designed to minimize their ecological footprint by using renewable energy sources, reducing brine discharge, and protecting marine life. These innovations ensure that desalination can be a sustainable component of California's water management strategy.

In addition to addressing water scarcity, the development of new desalination plants will create jobs and stimulate economic growth in our communities. The construction, operation, and maintenance of these facilities will provide employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

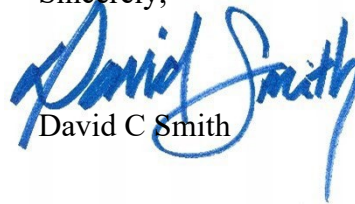
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We urge the State Water Resources Control Board to prioritize and streamline the approval process for new desalination projects. By doing so, we can enhance our water security, support economic development, and protect our environment for future generations.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to the Board's continued efforts to address California's water challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions.

Sincerely,



David C Smith

DCS:dcs

cc: Susan Hori  
Jordan Bromley

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