

# *San Diego Desal Partners*

*“Seeking Regional Water Supply Reliability Through Seawater Desalination”*

*San Diego Desal Partners* is a group of water agencies focused on helping to make seawater desalination a reality in the San Diego Region. Currently, four of the *Desal Partners* are under contract with Poseidon Resources as either Direct Purchase Contractors (City of Carlsbad), or Exchange Contractors (Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District, Sweetwater Authority, and Valley Center Municipal Water District) intending to receive in-lieu deliveries from the San Diego County Water Authority Aqueducts, via agreements with Desal Exchange Partners.

In addition to these agencies, a number of the *Desal Partners* are in various stages of discussions with Poseidon to either receive direct delivery, exchange delivery or to become an “Exchange Partner” on behalf of the Exchange Contractors listed above, and those agencies are: Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Rainbow Municipal Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Vista Irrigation District, Vallecitos Water District, and the City of Oceanside.

Finally, the San Diego County Water Authority is actively involved in developing various policies and programs which will ultimately facilitate and assist in moving desalted seawater from the Poseidon’s Carlsbad Desal Plant to and between member agencies of the San Diego County Water Authority.

## **Why Desal?**

The *Desal Partners* have entered into or are considering entering into contracts with Poseidon Resources to realize the obvious water supply, quality and reliability benefits, not only for their individual agencies, but also to make this project a reality to the overall benefit of the San Diego Region, as the:

- **Poseidon Resources/Carlsbad Project** will add 56,000 acre feet of **new** water to our region’s water supply, significantly raising San Diego’s overall water supply reliability in any MWD supply reduction scenario.
- **56,000 acre feet of desalted seawater** will not only increase overall water supply reliability for the region, but it will also provide improved water quality for those agencies taking direct delivery for use in their respective systems, or those agencies taking direct delivery in their systems as Exchange Partners for the Exchange Contractors.

■ **Success of the Carlsbad Project** may lead to other seawater desal projects being built in the San Diego Region and elsewhere in California. Given the uncertainties surrounding our current imported supply sources, this is an increasingly critical consideration.

## **There Are Still Issues to be Resolved....**

**While most agree that seawater desal is a good thing and should happen,** there are transactional issues and concerns between the involved agencies which need to be resolved, including:

**Reliability Benefits to Exchange Partners-** As stated above, the region as a whole will realize a reliability benefit in any MWD supply reduction scenario. However, it is also true that with their direct participation in the project, the Exchange Contractors will receive a much greater reliability benefit than their Exchange Partners, or the other water agencies in the San Diego region.

As such, the Exchange Contractors realize that the Exchange Partners warrant an enhanced water supply reliability benefit compared to the region in general, as it is only with their participation that the Exchange Contractors receive a benefit from the desal project.

***The Exchange Contractors fully understand this and want to work with the prospective Exchange Partners to determine the reasonable level of a uniform, enhanced reliability benefit needed to gain their interest in and commitment to participation.***

**Protection of Existing Treatment Investments -** The San Diego County Water Authority and a number of its member agencies either have made or are making significant investments in water treatment infrastructure which must be protected from becoming stranded assets. It is also understood that the desal facility needs to be consistently operated at or near its optimum output level at all times.

***The Desal Partners clearly see the need for coordinated and to the extent possible, integrated operation of these treatment facilities to meet the operational load and efficiency needs of all involved agencies. To that end, the Desal Partners have authorized a technical working group to evaluate how best to meet the goal of coordinated and integrated operation of desal and existing treated water facilities***

## **Please Join Us....**

While all of the San Diego Desal Partners are interested in improving their individual community's water quality and or water supply reliability, moreover, they are collectively interested in seeing a seawater desal project come on line to the greater benefit of the region. As such, we welcome the interest, support and participation of all water agencies in the San Diego Region to help obtain the regulatory approvals from the California Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission needed to ensure the success of this critically needed water supply project.

### *San Diego Desal Partners.....*

*City of Carlsbad*

*City of Oceanside*

*Olivenhain MWD*

*Rainbow MWD*

*Rincon del Diablo MWD*

*Santa Fe ID*

*Sweetwater Authority*

*Vallecitos WD*

*Valley Center MWD*

*Vista ID*