



May 10, 2022

The Hon. Donna Brownsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Facility – APPROVE

Dear Chair Brownsey:

As Executive Director of the South Orange County Economic Coalition that covers a region that creates more than \$25 billion in economic activity annually, I'm writing on behalf of the thousands of businesses throughout the region to urge the California Coastal Commission to approve Poseidon Water's Coastal Development Permit for the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination plant.

We need this drought-proof, climate resilient water reliability project to ensure that businesses have the confidence to put roots down in South Orange County and grow here. The proposed desalination project meets and exceeds every regulatory hurdle it has faced and it complies with the State Water Board's desalination amendment to the Ocean Plan.

Governor Gavin Newsom approved this project when he served on the State Lands Commission in 2017 and has included desalination in his Climate Resilient Water Plan. Additionally, the California's Water Resilience Portfolio identifies desalination as a proposal to enhance regional water supply diversification.

Orange County currently imports about 50% of the water we need. This proposed desalination project will help reduce that dependence on imported water and allow us to take one step closer to water independence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hernandez".

Victoria Hernandez
Executive Director
South Orange County Economic Coalition

cc:

Vice Chair Dr. Caryl Hart
Commissioner Danya Bochco
Commissioner Effie Turnbull-Sanders
Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh
Commissioner Steve Padilla
Commissioner Mike Wilson
Commissioner Catherine Rice
Commissioner Linda Escalante
Commissioner Megan Harman
Commissioner Roberto Uranga
Commissioner Carole Groom
Mr. Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director