

THE R4RD NEWSLETTER

Residents for Responsible Desalination

P.O. Box 5422, Huntington Beach, CA 92615-5422

©2007 R4RD

February 2007

R4RD's Mission

Educate

the public about seawater desalination;

Protect

local control of vital water resources;

Advocate

the use of technology and practices that avoid environmental and human health impacts; and,

Promote

environmentally preferable alternatives to desalination, such as water conservation, reclamation, retention, and recycling.

Board of Directors

Officers

Merle Moshiri, President

Larry Porter, Vice President

Patricia Goodman, Treasurer

Marinka Horack, Secretary

Directors

Nancy Donaven

Tim Geddes

Dave Hamilton

Eileen Murphy

John Scott

Robert Smith

Jan Vandersloot

Advisors

Amer & Lorraine Elahraf

John Earl

*Joe Geever, Regional Manager,
Surfrider Foundation*

Sandy Genis, Environment Planner

Lynda Hernandez

Steve Homer, President SEHBNA

Don Schulz, HB/SB

Surfrider Foundation

Message from the R4RD President

I welcome members and prospective members to the first edition of the R4RD Newsletter. This is to keep you updated on R4RD's and citizen efforts to protect the Huntington Beach and California coastline from the expansion of outdated desalination plant proposed by Poseidon Resources and AES. Both companies have tremendous political and economic resources so our work is cut out for us. The irony regarding Poseidon is that it has yet to get its only project in the U.S. (in Tampa Bay, FL.) up and running. In fact, the Tampa Bay project has been abandoned and is costing the citizens of that city additional millions of dollars (\$29,000,000) to date, to rescue their failed effort. HB does not need such an experiment.

As you may have read in local newspapers, Poseidon's PR firm in Costa Mesa has labeled our citizen group NIMBYS—always a fatal label when a nerve is touched. If these folks lived in Southeast Huntington Beach and were fighting off an assault of construction projects in THEIR backyards i.e. OCSD's pipeline debacle down 'Buschard', methane vents and gages around Edison Park and Kettler School, a new housing project off Newland, reconfiguration of parking and playing fields at Edison Park, the sewage lining project scheduled for this Spring—need I go on? This is not to even mention the blight, odors and noise from our long-time neighbors, the AES power plant and the ASCON Dump. Most people living in this area realize there is a certain amount of inconvenience involved to maintain infrastructure in a civilized society. We do need to protect our families by finally cleaning up the toxic waste dump. But do we NEED a desalination plant that will tear up miles of our city streets laying a 48" pipeline? Do we need vast amounts of concentrated brine dumped into the ocean? R4RD thinks not! This is an option, not a necessity and one that the voting majority on the City Council has bought into. The regional water agency for Orange County (MWDOC) says we will have enough water for the next 30 years and this includes all proposed development and modest conservation efforts.

R4RD realizes the need to develop alternative water resources and support ongoing desalination research. We do NOT support the outdated and obsolete plants proposed by a company with no record of success in the United States. We do NOT support the privatization of our most precious resource—**water**.

Please join us. This is a David vs Goliath effort but it's been done before. To quote Yogi Berra: "It ain't over 'til its over." Please, let us hear from you.

Merle Moshiri

President

Residents for Responsible Desalination

SAVE WATER - TRY NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

BY; MARINKA HORACK

Did you know that as much as half of our water bills go to watering our gardens? Californians could conserve half of their water by switching to real California plants for their gardens. Consider the most common plant found in front of most homes: grass. Each blade of grass is a plant with a thirsty root and there are thousands of these blades of grass in even the smallest lawn. It's very expensive to keep our lawns green—expensive to our wallets, and expensive to our environment.

We can do better. We can look to real California native plants that took millennia to develop and adapt to our dry California climate. Few non-native plants can survive without irrigation through the long dry California summers. California plants can—they are tough and beautiful and they belong in California gardens. Natives also do not need all the fertilizers and pesticides that we lavish onto our non-native plants. The bonus here is saving money, but more importantly, saving the environment from poisons that kill wildlife and spoil our water. The water runoff from our homes is often laced with pesticides, animal wastes, brake powder, oil, etc. It ends up in our flood control channels and flows to the ocean. As a result we end up with polluted beaches which are unhealthy for surfers and swimmers.

A gardener can start gradually by slowly introducing selected native plants to the home garden, perhaps in pots. Get to know the multitude of California plants that are just right for home gardens. Visit Orange County's only native plant nursery—**Tree of Life**—on Ortega Highway in San Juan Capistrano. It's an adventure to visit **Tree of Life Nursery** and it's a trip back in time to the California of lovely oak woodlands and fragrant fields of coastal sage scrub.

Most California plants do not need much water. It is important to let the soil get dry between waterings. Here is a list of some popular California plants you can try in your garden:

FLOWERING PLANTS:

- Monkeyflowers (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) - small scrub with profuse yellow blooms;
- Ceanothus (many species) - flowers in many different blues, violets and whites;

FLOWERING PLANTS (cont'd):

- Penstemons (many species) - flowers come in shades of red, blue, purple, rose, lavender;
- Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) - large showy white flowers with yellow centers;
- Sages (*Salvias*, many species) - ultra fragrant plants with blue flowers and interesting seed pods;
- St. Catherine's Lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*) - Catalina Buckwheat has creamy bunches of flowers.

WILD FLOWERS (by seed):

- California Poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) - our own golden state flower;
- Canterbury Bells (*Phacelia campanularia*) - deep blue flowers on fuzzy leaves;
- Lupine (many species) - blue, blue flowers
- Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*) - yellow petals with white tips;
- Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) - sky blue blooms.

DECORATIVE GRASSES:

- Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) - like miniature Pampas grass, but good for California wildlife;
- Purple Needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) - deep green leaves with beautiful purple seed heads.

LARGE BUSHES & SMALL TREES:

- California Holly, aka Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) - large scrub with red berries in winter (Note: Hollywood was named for this plant since the hills were covered in it);
- Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) - medium emerald green bush, good for hedges;
- Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) - small tree, magenta flowers, heart-shaped leaves (the official tree of H.B.);
- Catalina Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus*) - red bark, fern-like leaves, cream-white flowers.

R4RD, Residents 4 Responsible Desalination, & Residents for Responsible Desalination
are Registered Names of Residents for Responsible Desalination with All Rights Reserved.

CCC Public Hearing Schedule

Letter to Another Editor

<p>FEBRUARY 14 – 16, 2007</p> <p>Catamaran Resort Hotel 3999 Mission Blvd. San Diego, CA 92109 (858) 539-8700</p>
<p>MARCH 14 – 16, 2007</p> <p>Monterey Conference Center One Portola Plaza Monterey, CA 93940</p>
<p>APRIL 11 – 13, 2007</p> <p>Embassy Suites Hotel 333 Madonna Road San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 (805) 549-0800</p>
<p>MAY 9 – 11, 2007</p> <p>Los Angeles or Orange County (See www.coastal.ca.gov/ for Details)</p>
<p>JUNE 13 – 15, 2007</p> <p>Marin or Sonoma County (See www.coastal.ca.gov/ for Details)</p>

~~~~~  
**EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Town Hall Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2007**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**John Eader Elementary School**  
**Huntington Beach, CA**  
**(See Page 7 for Details)**

~~~~~

Dear [HB Independent] Editor:

Regular [HB] Independent readers cannot help but notice the suspicious deluge of letters supporting the proposed Poseidon Resources desalination plant project. Orchestrated and encouraged by Poseidon and their symbiotic AES cohorts or not, these letters all betray the same misunderstanding and ignorance of the facts in the matter. Here are my Favorite Five Facts that all letter writers and members of the public need to bear in mind:

FACT #1: There is no imminent water shortage or crisis of any kind facing Huntington Beach in the near future. We have sources of water, both local and out of area, that will serve us fine for decades. Poseidon's desal water is simply not needed at this time.

FACT #2: Current cost projections make Poseidon's desal water prohibitively expensive, far more than Huntington Beach or any existing community in the area would ever consent to pay for. Nobody around here wants Poseidon's expensive new water. They have no customers.

FACT #3: Poseidon will not now or ever be a major supplier for drinking water to Huntington Beach (see Facts #1 and #2). This water would never be for us. It would be for new South County communities who do not have established sources of water already. Any discounted or emergency supply of desal water (at market rates) to our city would be the proverbial drop in the bucket for our needs.

FACT #4: Despite its big-time financial backing, Poseidon has no major success in establishing an operating desalination plant. Its effort in Tampa Bay has resulted in failure, and its projects elsewhere have run into snag after snag. The risk of this project becoming an embarrassing boondoggle is astronomically high.

FACT #5: Poseidon has never acted in good faith in dealing with our community. Time after time, they have sought to manipulate public opinion with bogus PR efforts, slipshod environmental reports, and evasive arguments about their plans. While they have fought and bought their way into the upper hand legally, Poseidon is a long way off from being able to bamboozle their way completely through the approval process.

Those writing these alleged letters of support should take these facts into consideration before jumping on or clinging to the Poseidon bandwagon. Otherwise, there is a good chance they will get run over by it in the long run.

Sincerely,
Tim Geddes

CONFERENCE ON OCEAN DESALINATION

BY BOB SMITH

Last October, a one-day conference was held in Long Beach, CA on the topic of California's water portfolio requirements out to the year 2030. The conference was co-sponsored by *The Desal Response Group* and *The Aquarium of the Pacific*. An exciting series of speakers brought new perspectives and facts into focus. Among the many panelists were local experts Joe Geever, *Surfrider Foundation* and Debbie Cook, *HB City Council*.

The presentations were comprehensive taking an evidence-based approach to identifying and quantifying the many economic, political, technical, social, and environmental questions and possible answers. These presentations are a collection of "must-reads" for involved citizens.

Not only were these presentations available for those in attendance, but for those unable to attend, an innovative four-page document is available as a summary. This document summarizes the many divergent viewpoints presented during the conference and presents conclusions from the day's discussions.

Obviously, attempting to understand our water needs beyond five years is difficult. Extending to the year 2030 is a futurist's dream. However, this time frame makes sense when thinking about the lead-time in 5-year increments for critical infrastructure decisions.

Please see the Desal Group website: <http://www.desalresponsegroup.org/>

And, the Pacific Institute's website: <http://www.pacinst.org>

In reflecting on this Conference, the single most important topic covered concerned making sense of what is and what is not "responsible desalination". *Residents for Responsible Desalination* now has a handbook of relevant facts and concepts by which to assess how responsible a proposed project differs from an irresponsible project. The handbook is the Pacific Institute's "*Desalination, With a Grain of Salt—A California Perspective*." The easy-to-read Pacific Institute report provides definitions, terminology, process descriptions, environmental impacts, economics, and consensus conclusions about "successful" Ocean Desalination projects proposed in California. "Successful" means a specific project proposal would be approved by public regulatory agencies and transparent public legislative processes that are responsible for the common good. Specifically:

- Are the seawater intakes surface or subsurface? (Subsurface intakes avoid impingement and entrainment of aquatic life by locating the intake below the ocean bottom, but it may require certain types of sea-floor strata to be effective.)
- Is the concentrated brine discharge surface, subsurface, or mixed with wastewater? (Again, subsurface is better for above reasons.)
- Is the design capacity of the project "reasonable" for the target market? (While contentious, the forecast water needs of affected California regions out to the year 2030 suggest that many proposals are either in excess of projected needs or privatized, growth-inducing shell games.)

The Pacific Institute report analyzes the 21 discrete ocean desalination projects—both public and private—proposed along California's coastline, including that of Poseidon Resources in Huntington Beach. The analysis contrasts plant design decisions, technology, intake and discharge designs, and co-location with ample power source. Overall this report is true to its purpose as stated in its Executive Summary: "To avoid new, expensive errors, policymakers and the public need to take a careful look at the advantages and disadvantages of desalination and develop clear guidance on how to evaluate and judge proposals for new facilities."

In conclusion, almost anyone can get a solid understanding of Southern California's water requirements and how responsible desalination fits in by accessing and reading both the water conference summary and the Pacific Institute report.

Website References:

<http://www.desalresponsegroup.org/links.html> The Desal Response Group's extensive list of resources focusing largely on Desalination;

<http://www.pacinst.org/reports/desalination/index.htm> The Pacific Institute's references that include many related water and political topics besides Desalination.

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/desalination/desal_exec_summ.pdf Executive Summary of "Desalination, with a Grain of Salt".

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/desalination/appendix_A.pdf Desalination Technologies (9 pages)

Poseidon: "It Ain't Over 'til It's Over"

BY: JOE GEEVER

Please forgive the baseball analogy, but as Yogi Berra once said, "*It ain't over 'til it's over.*" As far as the Poseidon desalination factory ever being built on our beach, R4RD and the Surfrider Foundation consider this just the middle innings. Remember, the City Council vote was 4 to 3—what would be considered a close score with some of our best hitters coming to the plate.

Although the results of last November's elections could have been better, there will be future elections to decide better representation on the Huntington Beach City Council. While it may seem that the decision on this massive desalination facility is a "done deal," R4RD and Surfrider are doing everything in our power to ensure this unnecessary blight on our coast is re-considered by new representatives.

Surfrider and R4RD will continue our efforts on many fronts to take this into "extra innings". The following is a list of our efforts for equally concerned citizens to consider supporting:

1) Although the lawsuit challenging the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) lost at the trial level, we are considering an appeal. We believe this was a complicated case and the Orange County judge simply got it wrong.

2) We have challenged the City Council for granting a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for this project. We have appealed on the grounds that the Council decision was inconsistent with the goals and objectives clearly spelled out in the City's Local Coastal Plan (LCP). The LCP was designed to protect our coast, and much like the EIR, some City Council members chose to ignore the intent of this important planning document in favor of more industry. If the California Coastal Commission agrees with us, that vote will be overturned and sent back to the City for re-consideration.

3) Surfrider Foundation has challenged the permit for Poseidon Resources to discharge its effluent into the ocean. This issue gets wrapped up with the future of the AES power plant's permit to use ocean water to cool their generators. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act over 3 decades ago, and endless debate, the US EPA and every state agency have finally agreed

that this practice causes significant environmental harm by killing marine life in the intake. Surfrider believes it is simply poor public policy to permit a massive desalination facility that relies on the continuous destruction of California's marine environment when there are feasible alternatives for cooling the generator—as well as alternatives for desalination intakes that avoid this unnecessary environmental destruction. Surfrider has been promised a seat on a "stakeholder group" organized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and will be strongly advocating for the best technology available for both of these practices.

4) The State Lands Commission (SLC) will be considering a new lease for the Poseidon facility before they can break ground. The SLC has recently passed a resolution which points out the adverse impacts of "once-through cooling" on healthy oceans, and their strong reluctance to continue issuing leases for this practice. The SLC will also hold desalination facilities under the same scrutiny. Surfrider and R4RD will be there to make sure the SLC understands that this particular Poseidon facility is unnecessary, unwanted, and against the intent of the SLC resolution.

[Editor's note: The US Court of Appeals for the Second District handed down a decision on Jan. 25, 2007 that greatly sided with Riverkeeper, Inc., Surfrider Foundation, et al. and against the US Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) on the issues of the above Items 3 and 4.]

So you see, we are busy. We have scouted their "pitchers" and believe we can hit their curve balls over the fence. We will let you know when you have an opportunity to express your opinion of this proposed industrialization of the coast in front of other state agencies. In short, it ain't over by a long shot.

[About the author: Joe Geever is the Southern California Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, Playa del Rey, CA 90293. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, please view its website; www.surfrider.org.]

TOP FIVE REASONS TO OPPOSE OCEAN DESALINATION

*Ocean Desalination—a process that converts seawater into refined, drinkable water—is being hailed as the solution to water supply problems. Advocates of desalination claim that this technology would create a reliable, long-term water supply while decreasing pressure on other over-drawn water sources. But so far, ocean desalination (**desal**) is more of a speculative promise than real water source. The following are some reasons why communities are thinking twice before embracing this new technology to provide for their daily needs:*

- 1. IT DOESN'T WORK.** The main desalination technology being proposed in the United States is reverse osmosis, a process by which highly pressurized saltwater is pushed through tiny membrane filters in order to produce drinkable water. This technology has yet to work on a large scale in this country. The Tampa Bay Water Authority has spent over \$85 million for a desal plant, with a potential capacity of 25 million gallons per day. It has never produced water at full capacity. In Arizona, the Yuma desalter, a \$286 million project that promised to deliver 92 million gallons per day by desalinating brackish water, has also never worked to full scale. Ironically, in California and other places in the country, plants double the size of Tampa Bay are being proposed.
- 2. IT IS EXPENSIVE.** Ocean desalinated water is the most expensive water supply. To produce ocean desal water costs at least 5 times what conserved water costs. Conservation can be as little as \$0 to \$250 per acre-foot while the full costs of implementing ocean desal, including infrastructure, can be \$3,000 an acre-foot. An acre-foot of water is 326,000 gallons, or approximately a third of a million gallons. An acre-foot is approximately enough water for four families of four for one year. Proponents of ocean desal require multiple subsidies of both water and electricity to try to break even. To produce ocean desal water there are high upfront construction costs and high long-term operation and maintenance costs. Some proponents, such as CAL AM's Coastal Water Project in the Monterey area and Elkhorn Slough, are requesting upfront rate increases to provide for construction of the plant before producing any water while putting the public at risk.
- 3. FISHERIES AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS WILL BE THREATENED.** Since the 1970's, the fisheries along California's coast have suffered a sharp decline. Estuaries, the breeding grounds for aquatic life and the nurseries for young fish, have been devastated by over-development and both urban and agricultural runoff. Only 5% of California's coastal wetlands and estuaries remain. Ocean desalination will further harm these sensitive coastal areas because 100% of all marine life, in particular fish larvae, where 100,000 larvae equal one adult rockfish, will be sucked into the plant with the ocean water and killed. The brine created from the desalination process can also threaten marine life when discharged into the marine environment, especially rocky habitats, like near Carlsbad, where fish live.
- 4. THERE ARE MANY ALTERNATIVES.** A number of water agencies and districts are making great strides in adopting longer-term, economical and sustainable management practices like water conservation and reclamation of wastewater. Ocean desalination hides the growing water supply problem instead of focusing on water management and lowering water usage. The Pacific Institute report Waste Not, Want Not, The Potential for Urban Water Conservation in California (www.pacinst.org) found that California can meet its water needs for the next 30 years by implementing off-the-shelf, cost-effective urban water conservation. Ocean desal is an expensive, speculative supply option that will drain resources away from more practical solutions.
- 5. PRIVATIZATION IS RISKY.** Ocean desalination turns the ocean, a public resource, into a product available to the highest bidder, usually real estate developers or government agencies acting on their behalf. Markets do not take into consideration environmental and social equity concerns such as the basic need for affordable, clean water. Most water utilities and infrastructure have been built using public funds and are publicly owned in order to guarantee the greatest level of stability and accountability to the public. This could be the beginning of the deregulation of water in California leading to fiascos like those of energy deregulation and Enron.

Source: "Top Ten Reasons to Oppose Ocean Desalination" published by:

--"Public Citizen"-- 215 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003 tel: (202)-588-1000 fax: (202)-547-7392

California Office: 1615 Broadway, 9th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 tel: (510)-663-0888 fax: (510)-663-8569

As appearing on the "Residents for Responsible Desalination" website <http://www.hbdesalfacts.org/>.

Town Hall Meeting

Are the needs of Huntington Beach being met by the Poseidon Desal Project?

Thursday, March 1, 2007

7:00 - 8:30 PM

John H. Eader Elementary School

9291 Banning St.

Huntington Beach, CA 92646

The Poseidon Desalination Project is coming before the Coastal Commission for approval. This town hall meeting is an opportunity to:

- ✓ Listen to Noted Speakers
- ✓ Ask Questions of the Panel
- ✓ Be informed about desalination *and* its consequences.
- ✓ Public Invited
- ✓ Admission Free
- ✓ Coffee & Refreshments

Please call 714-374-0380 for more information.

The R4RD Newsletter

published quarterly by

THE RESIDENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE DESALINATION

Editor: Dave Hamilton

e-mail: dehamilton@earthlink.net

Note: The R4RD welcomes your articles and letters pertaining to water desalination, conservation, or reclamation. Please include your name, telephone, and e-mail address, if you have one. Important—Please include all applicable attributions, footnotes, and permissions if your submittal is not entirely original.

Submit Articles by the 15th day of the months of January, April, July, or October to be considered for the respective quarterly publication. THANK YOU!!

I want to contribute to/or join
Residents 4 Responsible Desalination
To help keep beaches, air, and ocean clean.
Enclosed is my membership/donation.

____Renewal ____New Member

____\$100 Benefactor

____\$50 Honor Roll

____\$20 Family

____\$15 Individual

____\$10 Student/Senior

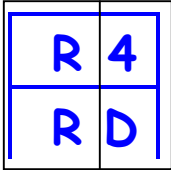
Make checks payable to: **Residents for Responsible Desalination**

Mail to: Residents for Responsible Desalination

PO Box 5422, Huntington Beach, CA 92615-5422

Website: www.hbdesalfacts.org

Tax ID #20-3449139



Residents for Responsible Desalination

"Organized for charitable, scientific, and education purposes about desalination of seawater."

THE R4RD NEWSLETTER

Residents for Responsible Desalination
PO Box 5422
Huntington Beach, CA 92615-5422

www.hbdesalfacts.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED