



January 10, 2006

RE: Support for MWDOC Beach Well Feasibility Study

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation in support of efforts by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to investigate the feasibility of sub-surface beach wells to supply seawater for ocean desalination.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

In general, Surfrider Foundation believes that future demands for water supplies should first be met by fully utilizing water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and stormwater management that will capture runoff for beneficial uses. We feel very strongly that these supply alternatives combine the benefit of meeting our future water needs while simultaneously reducing polluted runoff and ocean discharges. Ocean desalination should be the lowest priority for water supply choices and only employed using the most environmentally protective methods and technology.

We are pleased to see this approach to water supply alternatives reflected in MWDOC's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan. Furthermore, we are very supportive of the measured approach MWDOC is taking toward filling a limited role for ocean desalination in their water supply portfolio. Sub-surface "feedwater" intakes for desalination will avoid the unnecessary destruction of marine life, and disruption of healthy marine ecosystems, that accompanies open ocean intakes.

We look forward to the results of the sub-surface beach well feasibility study MWDOC is proposing in Dana Point.

Sincerely,

Joe Geever
Southern California Regional Manager -- Surfrider Foundation