



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2009

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City Council Adopts a Resolution to Support Proposed Water Desalination Facility

The Huntington Beach Water Desalination Facility is expected to provide 50 million gallons of water per day, which is enough to serve eight percent of the residents and businesses in Orange County.

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA – The Rancho Santa Margarita City Council recently voted unanimously to support the proposed Huntington Beach Water Desalination Facility. “The Huntington Beach Desalination Facility is a cost-effective, environmentally sensitive solution to provide a safe and reliable water supply to Orange County residents,” shares Gary Thompson, Mayor for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.

Like many communities in South Orange County, Rancho Santa Margarita is completely dependant on imported water. “Water is one of the most critical issues currently facing southern California,” says Thompson. “Given the serious drought conditions that exist, court decisions that restrict water supply to our region and the escalating price of imported water, it is imperative that we explore new supply options.”

In an effort to overcome water supply challenges, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita formed a strategic partnership with Santa Margarita Water District and Trabuco Canyon Water District earlier this year. “The Mayor’s Water Initiative” advocates water conservation and encourages residents, businesses and local elected officials to urge decision makers in Sacramento to enhance efforts to increase water supply to southern California.

While conservation continues to be a vital component of the supply challenge, both water districts asked the City to collaborate with them to increase water supply at the state and local level. John Schatz, General Manager of the Santa Margarita Water District, advocates the implementation of a ‘balanced water portfolio’. “Similar to a balanced financial portfolio, the state’s water supply needs to be diversified,” says Schatz. A balanced water portfolio would include reliance on a variety of water supplies, including desalination facilities, additional surface storage and new infrastructure to increase supply.

Both Santa Margarita and Trabuco Canyon water districts have signed letters of intent to purchase desalinated water from the proposed facility. The Huntington Beach Water Desalination Facility will utilize reverse-osmosis to remove salinity and is expected to purify 50 million gallons of water per day, enough to serve eight percent of the residents and businesses in Orange County.

For more information on the proposed Huntington Beach Water Desalination Facility, please visit www.hbfreshwater.com and visit www.cityofrsm.org to learn about the Mayor's Water Initiative.

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