

MONTEREY BAY REGIONAL DESALINATION Project Fact Sheet

THE MONTEREY BAY REGIONAL DESALINATION PROJECT is an approximately 20 million gallon per day seawater desalination facility that would provide a reliable new local source of high quality water that **meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards**. Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Community Services District is working with Poseidon Resources Corporation to advance the development of the project.

- ▶ The project would provide up to 21,000-23,000 acre-feet per year of high quality desalinated water that will serve existing water users and customers in Monterey County and adjacent communities, and address existing, long-term ground water overdrafts..
- ▶ The desalination plant will service the cities of the Monterey Peninsula, the unincorporated area of the County of Monterey, the areas of the Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Community District, and areas in the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.
- ▶ The project would use state-of-the-art reverse osmosis water treatment to desalinate the water.
- ▶ The desalination facility would be located in Moss Landing at the former National Refractories Plant adjacent to the Duke Power Plant.
- ▶ The Pajaro-Sunny Mesa District has signed a 99-year lease for a 20 acre site to construct a desalination project at the former National Refractories plant in Moss Landing.

Seawater desalination is a new water source that provides many important benefits:

NEW WATER SUPPLY: The project would provide a new locally owned and controlled water supply – enough water to meet the needs of more than 100,000 people.

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY: The technology employed in the desalination facility would produce an extremely high quality drinking water supply.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP: In July 2005, Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Community Services District and Poseidon Resources Corporation entered into an agreement to form a public-private partnership to permit, build, and operate a seawater desalination plant that will serve Monterey County, California and adjacent areas. Under the agreement, Poseidon would assume all risks associated with the financing, development and construction of the plant. **The public District will own and manage the plant and all drinking water will be appropriated for public use by the District.**

RELIABILITY: The desalination project helps meet local and regional water shortages and reliability goals by providing an affordable drought proof supply of high quality water to replace unpermitted diversions of water from the Carmel River watershed and reduce the severe overdraft of groundwater in North Monterey County.

THE COST OF DESALINATED SEAWATER has decreased substantially in recent years due to improvements in technology and the ability to use existing infrastructure. The project would incorporate a number of improvements that would ensure affordability of desalinated water.

- ◆ The desalination facility would take advantage of the tremendous advances in the capabilities of the technology that is used to remove the salt from seawater.
- ◆ The project would be located at the former National Refractory site and use an existing, permitted seawater intake and outfall and the huge seawater holding tanks that already exist onsite.
- ◆ The cost of desalinated seawater from the project is comparable to other new supplies available to the region.
- ◆ A key component of the partnership agreement is that the price for the water will range from \$1100 - \$1200 per acre-foot (2005 dollars).

WHY DE-SAL?

What makes seawater desalination especially attractive for the Monterey Bay Area is the fact that so much of our regional water needs are located in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean. While we will continue to rely on groundwater supplies, the sources that make up these supplies are inherently very limited. Further, orders from regulatory agencies and illegal or excessive overdrafts of groundwater in both North County and the Carmel Valley have made the need to address our regional water shortages urgent. **Our project is a regional project that addresses the needs of Monterey County citizens from Pajaro to the Monterey Peninsula.**

For more information please contact:

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