



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Peter Adam  
**Department No.:** 011  
**For Agenda Of:** April 5, 2016  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Peter Adam, 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Contact Info: Jayson Parsons, jayson.parsons@countyofsb.org 805-346-8407

**SUBJECT:** Carlsbad Desalination Tour with Supervisor Adam, CEO Miyasato, and County Staff

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

It is recommended that your Board take the following actions:

- a) Receive and file this presentation regarding the Carlsbad Desalination Tour with Supervisor Adam, CEO Miyasato, and County Staff
- b) Determine that this action is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) and the attached Notice of Exemption (Attachment 2).

**Summary Text:**

On May 4, 2016, Supervisor Adam will lead a group consisting of CEO Miyasato and county staff to tour the newly-operational Carlsbad desalination facility. This tour is intended to provide attendees with a technical overview of how desalination works and its benefits. A meeting after the tour between county staff and representatives from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) will facilitate discussion of an array of concerns including regulatory considerations, fiscal implications, environmental issues, and other such topics of interest should Santa Barbara County wish to explore desalination. Given this is a special request by a single Supervisor which the CEO feels is beyond the staff's normal work assignments and will exceed eight hours, this item is being brought to the attention of the full Board through an administrative item.

**Background:**

The Carlsbad desalination facility, officially named the Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant, is a newly-operational desalination facility north of San Diego, California. Opening in December 2015, it has been called the “nation’s ... most technologically advanced and energy-efficient seawater desalination plant,” by the San Diego County Water Authority, and is the largest desalination facility in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant has an estimated daily output of 50 million US gallons of water, or approximately 56,000 acre-feet per year, and is currently operated by Poseidon Water. Fresh water is produced by filtering seawater through anthracite, sand, and gravel, and is then injected through a 16,000-membrane reverse-osmosis array to remove salts and dissolved particles. After membrane filtration, essential minerals are added back into the water and delivered via a ten-mile pipeline to the SDCWA distribution system in San Marcos. The plant meets approximately 7-10% of the potable water needs for the San Diego region.

**Fiscal Impacts:**

This activity will have minimal cost (mileage accrued by two county pool vehicles) and will be funded within existing budgets.

**Attachments:**

1. Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

Jayson Parsons, jayson.parsons@countyofsb.org 805-346-8407