



**WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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May 6, 1999

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Mr. Mark Delaplaine  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

**Subject: Public Hearing CD-32-99, 2/11/99: United States Geological Survey**

Dear Mr. Delaplaine,

This letter is in follow up to our telephone conversation the other day regarding my support for the seismic work of the U.S.G.S. in offshore southern California waters. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) is the groundwater management agency for the Central and West Coast groundwater basins, which lie in coastal southern Los Angeles County. Our District is charged with the protection of the groundwater resource for the overlying users, which include 4 million residents in 43 cities. About 40 percent of the total water supply for this area comes from the groundwater resource.

A critical aspect in our ability to properly manage the basins and to protect water quality is to have a thorough understanding of the groundwater flow system. One of our biggest challenges is to prevent the seawater from intruding the potable aquifers, making them unusable. Currently we spend about \$14,000,000 per year on imported water to inject into barrier wells located along the coast to try to keep out the seawater. Even with this effort, some seawater still gets past the barriers and contaminates the aquifers due to the complexities of the groundwater flow system.

We have been working with the U.S.G.S. the past four years on inland projects to better define the groundwater flow system. However, the important regions just offshore, for example San Pedro Bay, which provide the direct route for seawater intrusion, are not geologically well defined. The offshore work proposed by the U.S.G.S. would greatly assist WRD in understanding the onshore/offshore boundary with respect to the groundwater flow regime, fault systems, and aquifer tracing in the Los Angeles area.

Please feel free to contact me at (562) 407-1919 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Johnson, R.G., C.H.G.  
Senior Hydrogeologist

Cc: Michael D. Carr, U.S.G.S.

