

Residents for Responsible Desalination

2020 Candidate Questionnaire

For election to be held on **November 3, 2020**

Please return your response via email to by September 15, 2020.

Candidate: Casey McKeon

casey4hbcc@gmail.com

1. Please tell us why you are running for election to the Huntington Beach City Council.
I'm running for City Council because I think its important that local residents that are invested in the wellbeing of the community are elected to represent the Citizens, not special interest groups. Its critical to elect grassroots candidates that have the City and citizen's best interests in mind. I view myself as a conduit to the citizens that will have a voice on City Council.
2. What is your vision for the City? *I want to preserve Huntington Beach's status as a Charter City in order to protect our Local Control. We know the issues we face as a community and its up to us to decide how we fix our problems. Not a one size fits all mandate from Sacramento. I want to protect against irresponsible development to ensure we keep H.B. a suburban beach community that protects our open spaces. I am creating a small business task force that will represent hundreds of small businesses to ensure they have the resources they need to re-open at 100% capacity so that we can revive our local economy. The best path forward to a balanced budget is by supporting our small businesses which will generate higher sales tax revenues to the City. This will be a continual year over year income stream, not a one-time development fee that the High Density development projects provide. I will not support raising taxes.*
3. What public boards, committees, and/or commissions, non-profits have you served on in the last five years? *I have served on the Investment Advisory Board and am currently on the Finance Commission.*
4. Do you feel that the current or near future water needs of Huntington Beach require the construction of a local seawater desalination plant? *No, we only import roughly 23% of our water needs from Norther CA and the Colorado River. Orange County is in a much better situation than other counties when it comes to its imported water needs. A desalination plant is not the solution.*
5. Did you support the approval by the City of Poseidon's Environmental Impact Report, Conditional Use Permit, and other permits to construct and operate a seawater desalination plant in our city? *I do not.*
 - a. Why or why not? *We only import roughly 23% of our water needs from Northern California and the Colorado River. Our groundwater provides the balance. A desal plant will increase our water costs from roughly \$1,100 per acre foot for imported water to \$1,800 per acre foot for desalted water. This desalted water will mostly go to South Orange County so H.B. will not even use this water. Our*

Residents for Responsible Desalination

2020 Candidate Questionnaire

For election to be held on **November 3, 2020**

streets will be torn up for 3 years and the environmental impacts to our oceanfront will be huge. Poseidon was not done through a fair market process but rather through crony capitalism. I adamantly oppose Poseidon.

6. Do you support the continued use of the abandoned AES Power Plant's open-ocean intake and outfall pipes to serve the Poseidon desalination plant's operational needs?
 - a. Why or why not? *First, AES is not abandoned. It was supposed to be but now the State is mandating that we keep it open for another 3 years minimum as the State does not produce enough electricity. Regardless, I do not support using the open-ocean intake and outfall pipes to serve the Poseidon desalination plant's operational needs because it will wreak environmental havoc on our oceanfront. Those intake pipes will create a dead zone in the ocean as it sucks up marine life.*

7. Do you feel that the probable costs of Poseidon's desal water would require such measures as public subsidies and/or participation by water districts in blending expensive water with cheaper water to bring down the cost of desalinated water? *Yes. As mentioned, the desal water will cost roughly \$1,800 per acre foot as opposed to \$1,100 per acre foot that imported water currently costs. That bridge in pricing will only lead to proposals for public subsidies or water districts participation which will only end up costing the consumers more money through higher taxes. Any way you slice it, the consumer will pay more.*

8. Have you solicited or received campaign contributions from Poseidon Water, Poseidon Resources, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners, an affiliated PAC, association, OC-WISE, OCTax, OC Taxpayers, members of the Board of Directors, or senior management, either directly or indirectly? *I have not.*
 - a. If yes, who have you solicited and how much have you raised or intend to raise from such sources?