Several steam-producing powerplants are located on the coast between San Francisco and the Mexican border. The majority of these are fossil-fueled plants. The only operating nuclear-fueled plant south of San Francisco is located in San Diego County. The only nuclear-fueled plant under construction on the coast is located in San Luis Obispo County.

Based on this evaluation, it was concluded that the most feasible water service area for the prototype desalting plant was a combination of a water marketing area composed of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The State has a contract with the two counties to supply water from the State Water Project in the amount of 82,700 acre-feet per year. A desalting plant can provide some of this supply.

The site selected for the feasibility study is adjacent to the nuclear powerplant under construction by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. at Diablo Canyon. It is anticipated that the feasibility study will take the remainder of this year. A final report on the study is planned for early 1972.

At the present time the Department is working with the counties to determine the quantity of desalted water each can reasonably expect to use. Last month an architect-engineering firm (Kaiser Engineers) was engaged to make an engineering feasibility study of the desalting aspects of the study. The Department is working with the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for a steam supply from its Diablo Canyon powerplant. The utility is cooperating by studying the means of providing steam from its powerplant in the amount, and under the conditions, that can be beneficially used by the desalting plant.

Another important part of this study is to evaluate the environmental impact of desalters. The California Department of Fish and Game will be evaluating the effect on the ocean environment of the discharge of warm brine and sea water from the desalter. We would expect the operation of the prototype desalter to be invaluable in providing many of the answers that would be need in the future if we are to design, build, and operate desalters on the California coast in environmentally acceptable manner.

Our support of S. 991 is specifically related to section 3, although we also support the research and development objectives. In that connection, we have been, and still are, participating with the Office of Saline Water in test bed and module development in the San Diego area.

In conclusion, we believe that the large-capacity prototype study that is presently underway by the Department of Water Resources and the Interior Department will afford the best opportunity for the early construction of a prototype desalting plant to satisfy the substantial national commitment as authorized and directed by section 3 of S. 991. All four of the considerations itemized in section 3(b) can more than adequately be met by the California study proceeding into the authorization, design, and construction phases. The plant size and process best suited for advancing technology can be selected. There is likely to be available cooperating, non-Federal entities to operate the plant and provide a water market. A site has been identified. A power supply is available. It is anticipated that environmental considerations can be adequately resolved. There is a need for an additional municipal and industrial water supply in the service area. The Counties of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo are looking to the State for augmenta-