

## Woods, Penelope D

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**From:** Bird, Mark <mark.bird@csn.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 11:48 AM  
**To:** Woods, Penelope D  
**Subject:** Desalting costs \$000

Ms Woods:

Thanks for your reply to my article on 17 alternatives to the pipeline. At the bottom of this message is a link to another article I wrote for a water publication. My article contends the costs of desalting water for the Colorado River system is \$000 per acre-foot if the indirect benefits are considered. I passed out this article to the SNWA Board of Directors in 2005.

In 2005, SNWA had almost identical acre-foot cost estimates for desalting and the pipeline. Since then, we have the estimate of pipeline costs increasing from 3 to 15 billion, or by 500 percent! Meanwhile, the costs of seawater desalting have decreased by 50 percent in the last 15 years and are certain to decrease another 50% from the current cost in the next 15 years.

Following are the reasons for desalting costing \$000 if the indirect benefits are considered. I hope this letter and my entire article can appear in the final EIS.

1. Desalting allows more Colorado River water for inland areas.
2. Desalting reduces pollution concentrations in the Colorado River.
3. It reduces groundwater deterioration.
4. It helps preserve electrical production.
5. It helps recreation and marinas on the river.
6. It helps food prices. Desalting brackish water is now feasible for high value crops using drip irrigation.
7. It helps prepare for water shortages.
8. It helps reduce future global warming damages on seacoasts.
9. It has less environmental damages than long pipelines.
10. It reduces litigation, as there is an infinite supply.
11. It can help improve relations with Mexico.
12. It can be contingent on a city attaining water conservation improvements.
13. It lessens seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers.
14. It can lead to the recycling of gold and other minerals in seawater.
15. It can help the U.S. trade imbalance.
16. It can help reduce future water wars.
17. It could help over a 1,000,000,000 people in the next 100 years.
18. Future costs are certain to decline.

The below link has greater discussion on the above 18 benefits of desalting.  
Cordially, Mark Bird

<http://www.wcponline.com/PDF/0405%20Desalt.pdf>