



March 10, 2017

Dianne Jacob, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairwoman Jacob:

I am writing to express Biocom's support for the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Division's (HMD) proposed cost recovery fee adjustments. Biocom appreciates HMD's efforts to modernize and simplify its fee structure.

Biocom is the San Diego headquartered life science association of California, representing over 850 members, including biotechnology and medical device companies, universities, basic research institutions, and service support firms. San Diego's life science cluster of over 1,200 establishments employs 50,000 people, with an average wage of \$117,000. These jobs represent an overall impact of \$34 billion in annual economic activity.

Biocom and our members appreciate HMD efforts to garner input from the life science industry on proposed changes to its policies and regulations. We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with HMD for many years; one which we are grateful for. We would like to acknowledge HMD Chief Maryam Dorsey and her staff for working closely with our industry to achieve the division's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Current HMD fees are based on waste or material threshold quantities, which can be difficult to understand. HMD conducted a comprehensive review of division costs and services to achieve a new fee structure that includes a base fee and inventory fee for each facility. The proposed new fee structure will make it easier for permit holders to anticipate costs while avoiding increased fees in most categories.

Biocom urges the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to approve HMD's cost recovery proposal.

Sincerely,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO
Biocom

CC: Members, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

