



December 8, 2017

Armando Quintero, Chair  
California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Support for Pure Water San Diego Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Application**

Dear Chairman Quintero:

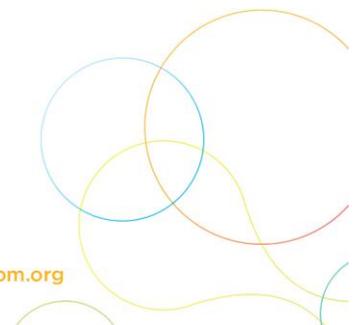
I am writing to express Biocom's support for the City of San Diego's funding application from the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) for the Pure Water San Diego program.

Biocom is the largest, most experienced leader and advocate for California's life science sector, representing over 1,000 members. Our organization was founded 22 years ago on the issue of access to water. Our member companies depend on a reliable, constant source of water for everyday business activities; interruption of these supplies could mean millions of dollars lost in delicate research. Biocom has been a longtime supporter of diversification of San Diego's water supply, including indirect (and, if viable, direct) potable reuse as a logical alternative to water importation.

In 2014, the voters of California approved Proposition 1 to provide funding for creating more reliable water supplies, more resilient and sustainably-managed water infrastructure, and restoration of important species and habitat. The largest component of the bond measure, now known as WSIP, is critical to the development of new water supplies for all of California.

Prior to the recent five-year drought that ended with one of the wettest winters on record, the state endured a dry spell from 1987 to 1992 that severely limited San Diego's imported water supplies. Since that time, the region's water managers have implemented a water supply strategy, including diversification of supply. This diversified portfolio includes conservation (San Diego uses the same amount of water now as it did in 1990, despite an increase in population of 250,000 people), desalination, and a large recycled ('purple pipe') water system that offsets demand for potable water. To further augment local supply, San Diego is implementing a potable reuse project, Pure Water San Diego.

When fully constructed in 2035, Pure Water San Diego will produce one-third of San Diego's water supply needs by applying advanced treatment technologies to recycled water to produce high-quality drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. Pure Water is currently in the design phase, with construction on Phase 1





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scheduled to begin in 2018. Phase 1 will be completed and online in 2021, and will produce 30 million gallons per day (approximately 33,000 acre-feet per year) of potable water for the community.

In addition to an aggressive implementation timeframe that will provide real benefits and real water to San Diego in just a few years, the project will be the first Surface Water Augmentation (SWA) potable reuse project in the state of California. The potable water produced by the Pure Water San Diego advanced treatment facility will be transported to and stored in local surface reservoirs, beginning with Miramar Reservoir for Phase 1 in 2021. Thus this project will considerably augment water stored from regional supply, reducing the need to fill these same reservoirs with imported water. This reduced reliance on imported supplies is beneficial for the entire state's water system as it provides much greater flexibility for the often oversubscribed State Water Project and Colorado River supply systems.

Pure Water San Diego's implementation will also drastically reduce the amount of treated effluent that will be discharged from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (PLWTP). When Pure Water San Diego is fully implemented in 2035, the discharge volume at PLWTP will be reduced by approximately 67%.

The WSIP is meant to fund innovative water infrastructure that will provide real benefits to the state's water system, ecosystem, and residents. Pure Water San Diego is an unprecedented project that will provide water supply and system benefits to both San Diego and the state as a whole, in just a few short years. It can serve as a model to other jurisdictions considering pursuit of enhanced surface water storage. Biocom supports the Pure Water San Diego program and strongly urges the Commission to provide the program with a grant award from the WSIP for Phase 1 implementation.

If you should have questions or concerns regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact my office at 858-455-0300.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO  
Biocom

