



January 17, 2017

Michael Picker
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Picker:

I am writing to express Biocom's support for SDG&E's proposed 47-mile natural gas transmission pipeline, or Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project (PSRP), which would start at the Rainbow Metering Station and connect with SDG&E's natural gas system on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Biocom is the life science association of California, representing over 800 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.

Natural gas is a critical utility to the operation of life science facilities, as it is used to heat occupied spaces that are in use day-and-night, control temperatures on process development, and efficiently operate scientific equipment such as autoclave sterilizers, boilers, and Bunsen burners.

SDG&E's existing natural gas transmission system primarily relies on one pipeline for 90 percent of the natural gas delivered to San Diego and another pipeline constructed in 1949 for the rest. This older line must either be pressure tested or replaced according to state law, and Biocom supports its replacement to avoid service interruptions, improve the pipeline's safety outlook, and upgrade to more reliable, modern technology.

The PSRP can help to provide a safe and reliable energy system for the research and experiments that hopefully will someday change and save people's lives. Biocom urges the CPUC to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO
Biocom

