



May 23, 2016

Alexi Schnell
Water Resources Specialist
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Alexi:

On behalf of Biocom, I am writing to comment on the Water Authority's draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. Biocom is the life science trade association in Southern California, representing 750 member companies. Our members depend on a reliable source of water for the research and experiments that hopefully will someday change and save people's lives. An adequate guarantee of water is also a major factor for companies as they consider whether to locate research and manufacturing facilities in this region.

We appreciate the Water Authority's continued efforts to diversify the region's water supply sources in order to guarantee reliability. This strategy has provided benefits to the greater San Diego community during the current drought, for instance, by allowing for credit against the state's water-use reduction targets due to drought-resilient supplies from the desalination plant in Carlsbad. We support in concept ongoing efforts to develop reliable, locally controlled water supplies such as new potable reuse/recycling projects. As envisioned in the draft 2015 plan, this will reduce reliance on supplies outside the control of the Water Authority and its member agencies.

In addition, we commend the Water Authority and its member agencies for their commitment to water-use efficiency; the draft plan projects additional savings of 74,000 acre-feet in 2020, ramping up to 128,000 acre-feet of additional conservation savings in 2040. The water-saving programs offered by the Water Authority and its partners address key aspects of water use in our community, and we are pleased that they will continue to play a central role. These water-use reduction forecasts are projected to allow our region to exceed the state's conservation targets set by the Legislature in SBX7-7.

We appreciate Water Authority staff efforts to prepare this long-term plan. With the adoption of new technologies and sustained efforts to enhance water-use efficiency, the San Diego region can continue to thrive. We encourage you to continue to invest in water projects and programs that will help keep San Diego County vibrant for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO
Biocom

