



March 19, 2019

California State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
P.O. Box 944212
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

RE: Support for Financial Assistance Application: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Phase 1

Dear Madam/Sir:

I am writing to express Biocom's support for the City of San Diego's application for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program for the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Phase 1 project.

Biocom is the largest, most experienced leader and advocate for California's life science sector. We work on behalf of over 1,100 members to drive public policy, build a network of industry leaders, create access to capital, introduce cutting-edge STEM education programs, and create value-driven purchasing programs.

The Los Peñasquitos project will provide direct benefits to the estuary, coastal habitats, and wildlife, as well as needed flood protection. Biocom members in the Sorrento Valley area of San Diego have been constantly under threat of flooding during storm events, which has occurred in volumes from small amounts to enough to leave standing water on the floors. These companies are conducting sensitive chemical processes, and when water intrusion occurs even in small amounts, their regulatory certifications require that they completely rebuild cleanrooms and labs. Several times, flooding has resulted in millions of dollars in damages and rebuilding costs. These companies have also made significant unforeseen investments in flood protection infrastructure to fortify facilities against water intrusion.

Because of these ongoing issues, our members have a significant stake in flood management and restoration of the lagoon included in this project. These companies are not only a significant contributor to the San Diego economy, but also part of an industry that develops and manufactures life-saving treatments.

Biocom has been working for many years with the City of San Diego, our members, and other stakeholders such as the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation and California State Parks, on this project. We believe that the project will serve as a model for management and implementation of efforts to restore coastal watersheds by improving water quality, restoring habitats, and creating resiliency to sea level rise. I respectfully and strongly encourage the approval of the grant application for this effort.

Sincerely,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO
Biocom

CC: Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego
Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry, City of San Diego
Sumer Hasenin, Planning and Asset Management Program Manager, City of San Diego

