



September 6, 2019

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peters:

Biocom is the largest, most experienced leader and advocate for California's life science sector, which includes biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, genomics and diagnostics companies of all sizes, as well as research universities and institutes, clinical research organizations, investors and service providers. With more than 1,200 members dedicated to improving health and quality of life, Biocom drives public policy initiatives to positively influence the state's life science community in the research, development, and delivery of innovative products. California's life sciences industry generates over \$346 billion in annual economic output, boosts the state's total gross product by \$195.8 billion, supports almost 1.3 million jobs, and increases labor income by more than \$104 billion per year¹.

I am writing to express Biocom's support for the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II (OPRA II) of 2019.

Our organization was founded 24 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.

OPRA II is critical to implementing the comprehensive Pure Water San Diego Program, which will provide a renewable source of drinking water as well as divert ocean pollution. This bill would enable the city to avoid future lengthy permitting processes if it continues to comply with the regulations it has previously met for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant and its ocean discharge.

Pure Water San Diego ensures a safe, reliable, and cost-effective drinking water supply through the application of advanced treatment technology to purify recycled water. The program is a joint water and wastewater facilities plan that envisions a significant investment in potable water reuse and ancillary

¹ *Biocom 2019 Economic Impact Report Databook*





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facilities that will produce one-third of San Diego's total potable water demand by 2035 while also reducing ocean wastewater discharges by 50 percent.

This legislation would allow the City of San Diego and its regional partners to continue progress in enhancing water and wastewater systems, improve local water reliability, and provide meaningful environmental protection. Biocom is pleased to offer support for this legislation and thanks you for your leadership on this important issue.

Best regards,

Joe Panetta, President and CEO
Biocom

