



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA
MAYOR

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate Pro Tem
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Drought Relief, Water Infrastructure Investments, and Ratepayer Assistance

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins, Speaker Rendon:

We write to you in support of the Governor's and the Legislature's commitment to combat drought conditions through proposed investments in water infrastructure and efficiency measures. These actions, along with the Governor's direction to include strong drought response measures in the revised budget, reflect the bold commitment to water sustainability that we share as the two largest cities in California. The cities of Los Angeles and San Diego are prepared to help you deliver a sustainable water future.


We urge you to build on these proposals and invest at least \$1.5 billion in water reuse projects, including water recycling and stormwater capture projects, as a part of the state's drought response package. This level of investment will meet the scale that our climate crisis demands, reduce the pressure on the state's water infrastructure, and provide statewide benefits beyond our own cities' borders.

The City of Los Angeles is on the path towards 70% local water to build in the resilience needed in the face of climate change. To do that, we are investing in significant infrastructure projects, including transforming the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant into a 100% recycling facility. The Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant — the largest treatment plant west of the Mississippi River — currently receives 81% of the City's total wastewater and recycles 27% of the water that flows into the facility. By 2035, we will convert the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to full advanced treatment with up to 170 million gallons per day (MGD) of purified recycled water production. The plant will then convey this advanced treated water inland to replenish the nearly one million acre-feet of available storage, extract and treat groundwater from these Basins for distribution into the potable system, and potentially augment raw water at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant and groundwater treatment facilities. These investments are estimated to cost \$8 billion over the next 15 years and will create middle-class engineering, construction, operations, and maintenance jobs.

Similarly, Pure Water is the City of San Diego's phased, multi-year program that will provide one-half, or 83 million gallons per day, of San Diego's drinking water supply by the end of 2035. With San Diego's existing water system, only 8% of the wastewater leaving homes and businesses is recycled; the rest is treated and discharged into the ocean. The Pure Water Program will transform the City's water system into a complete water cycle, using proven water purification technology as part of a five-step process to clean recycled water and produce safe, high-quality drinking water. Estimated to cost \$5 billion, Pure Water will provide a reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective investment for the City's water needs while generating over a thousand high-quality jobs throughout the 15-year construction period. The Pure Water Program is the most extensive integrated infrastructure program the City of San Diego has undertaken and will be the first reservoir augmentation project in California.

These projects are leading examples of transformative investments that the State should prioritize as it implements the Governor's Water Resilience Plan. They will ease pressures on state infrastructure and vulnerable, environmentally sensitive sources of imported water. With \$1.5 billion in state investments, California can accelerate the deployment of these projects, ensuring a water resilient California for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and vision for a sustainable water future.

Sincerely,



ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor of Los Angeles



TODD GLORIA
Mayor of San Diego