



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
SHERRI S. LIGHTNER**
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2015

Contact: Jennifer N. Kearns
(619) 236-6611

Media Advisory

Council President Lightner, Business and Environmental Leaders Endorse Water Rate Increase to Support Infrastructure

SAN DIEGO --- San Diego City Council President Sherri Lightner will join local business groups and environmental leaders to discuss their support of the proposed water rate increase. The proposed rate increase reflects the increased cost of water due to the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) rate increases and the cost to produce and distribute recycled water. It also provides support for the initial phase of the City's Pure Water program, replacement of aging infrastructure, investments in system efficiency, drought response, the State conservation mandate and recovery of required reserve levels.

"This rate increase is supported by the business and environmental communities," stated Council President Lightner. "I'm looking forward to working with my Council colleagues to adopt changes to both the potable and recycled water rates that will ensure the security of our water future without impacting essential city services, such as public safety, libraries, parks and streets."

Failure to approve the new water rates could lead to dire consequences for the City of San Diego and taxpayers. They include:

- Stopping most water main and pipeline replacement, which will lead to more breaks in the system and more wasted water.
- Ending efforts to create an independent local water supply through the innovative Pure Water program, a water recycling plan that will provide one-third of the City's water supply by 2035.
- Tapping reserves or the City's operating budget to cover the budget shortfall, which would either hurt the City's credit rating or leave less money for public safety and neighborhood services, respectively.
- Risking violations of federal and state environmental mandates and requirements.

WHAT: Press Conference

WHO: Council President Sherri S. Lightner
Jerry Sanders, President/CEO, San Diego Chamber of Commerce
Kris Michell, President/CEO, Downtown San Diego Partnership
Mark Cafferty, President/CEO, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.
(pending)
Theresa Edwards, Interim President/CEO, San Diego County Taxpayers Association
Jim Peugh, Board of Directors, San Diego Audubon Society
Lani Lutar, Principal Consultant, Water Reliability Coalition
Melanie Nally, Assoc. Director of Local Government & Regulatory Affairs, BIOCOM

WHEN: Monday, November 16, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: **City Administration Building Lobby (CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER)**
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

###