



City of San Diego

MARK KERSEY

CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

WATER INDEPENDENCE

Reliable long-term water supply is vital to our residents and is essential for our businesses. The people of this city have done a tremendous job of conserving in times of crisis, but it is time we stop reacting to crisis after crisis and instead create a strategy to reduce our dependence on water from places like Colorado and Northern California.

Water reliability is not only a quality of life issue for our residents, but also an economic issue. District Five is home to many large industrial water users, as well as golf courses. Our City's biotech industry also depends on water for processing and cooling needs. Long term, these businesses will relocate if a reliable source of water is not available. Likewise, our ability to attract new businesses to San Diego is at stake. In order to take real steps toward water independence, our approach must consider desalination, indirect potable reuse and purple-pipe recycled water. Ultimately, our needs are too great to rely exclusively on any of these. Together they begin to address our water deficit in a permanent way.

Regarding the expiration of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit in 2015, I support state and federal legislation that enhances the City's opportunities for environmentally and fiscally sound options. Negotiations with the federal government over the future of the plant should aggressively pursue such options. This would include being at the table around legislation similar to AB 2398, which sought to revise state law to define wastewater as a potential resource, rather than waste, and to provide avenues for the most economical approach toward reuse. We will need all available options explored and a cost-benefit analysis conducted to determine the future of discharges from the Pt. Loma plant, and our legislative efforts should reflect the urgency of this issue.

These are just a few of the water independence strategies I have prioritized for this term. Let me know your thoughts at markkersey@sandiego.gov.

[Guaranteed Water for Industry Program](#)