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November 25, 2002

Irene Stillings
Executive Director
San Diego Regional Energy Office
8520 Tech Way
San Diego, CA 92123
Via Fax: 858-244-1178

Dear Director Stillings:

BIOCOM/san diego is the regional trade association for the life sciences. Currently our membership stands at 450 companies employing 32,000 professionals in the areas of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices. We also have a strong service sector component that provides support to the industry in areas including law, accounting and supplies. Our mission is to ensure that the life science industry remains a strong and growing part of the region's economy. In keeping with this important role, BIOCOM proactively addresses significant business, community and legislative issues.

I would like to submit comments on the recently released San Diego Regional Energy Infrastructure Study. BIOCOM cites in our Legislative Issues and Principles Agenda that "for both research and manufacturing processes, an uninterrupted supply of water and electricity is critical for life sciences companies and a major factor for companies as they make their decision to locate multi-million dollar facilities in the San Diego region." The outages of 2000 had potentially devastating effects on companies that were in a position to lose years of research; thankfully we were able to work with the City of San Diego so that companies would be given notice of blackouts.

At this point it is our understanding that short-term energy needs have been addressed through a variety of measures including long-term contracts, renewable resource power, and conservation campaigns. We believe that the next step for a successful region energy plan is to ensure that transmission infrastructure is secured. We support the proposal for the Valley-Rainbow Interconnect as a means of keeping new energy flowing into the region and prices competitive.

The life sciences industry is very interested in seeing an energy plan developed for the region that will properly account for the growth of our industry and population. San Diego is currently the third largest cluster for biotechnology in the world and the fastest growing. I hope you take these comments into account as you finalize the region's plan and BIOCOM looks forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,


April Bailey
Director of Government Relations