

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF CALIFORNIA
TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON WATER ISSUES**

The Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, represented by the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food, the Embassy of Denmark in Washington D.C., the Danish Water Technology Alliance in Palo Alto and Chicago, and the Government of California, represented by the Governor's Office, the State Water Boards as well as Department of Water Resources (hereinafter "the Participants"), and other parties included when relevant and agreed upon by the Participants.

Considering the strategic role of water issues in addressing current global, national, regional, and local challenges;

Desiring to develop and promote efficient wastewater and water use technologies in view of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the water sector to further the mitigation of climate change;

Wishing to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of water resource management and development and use of water technology; and

Bearing in mind that this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is intended to provide a general framework for cooperation on common water issues,

Have reached the following understandings:

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this MOU is to promote a mutually beneficial relationship between the Participants in the field of water technology, water management, and regulation, with a view to sharing knowledge, experiences, data, and best practices relevant to water resources management challenges.

Section 2 – Priorities of Cooperation

The following topics have been identified as high priority areas for cooperation between the Participants under this MOU:

1. Promoting knowledge and solutions of joint interest related to sustainable groundwater management - including groundwater mapping, water data collection and management, and identifying effective strategies and actions for groundwater sustainability;

2. Identifying challenges and finding effective solutions associated with water conservation, water use efficiency, reduction of water loss, and energy use in the distribution system. Sharing ideas and approaches for auditing and benchmarking of water utilities in order to enhance operational performance and promote sector learning are also critical components of this priority.
3. Sharing of best practices, regulatory approaches, research, and potential solutions for wastewater treatment - particularly focused on reducing the carbon footprint, increasing energy efficiency, promoting resource recovery of valuable nutrients such as phosphorous, and optimizing the production of renewable energy.
4. Sharing ideas and knowledge on how to stimulate innovation and facilitate entrepreneurship within our water sectors including innovative financing mechanisms for water resources management.

Section 3 – Cooperative Mechanisms

Cooperative mechanisms to accomplish the goals established by this MOU may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exchange of information regarding policies and regulations, governance models, and documentation;
2. Intergovernmental and international visits involving policymakers, regulators, academic institutions, and businesses;
3. Joint activities such as organization of and participation in seminars, workshops, and meetings to share information and practices, educate key stakeholders, and promote ties between our two water sectors; and
4. Facilitation of research between academic and governmental institutions.

Each Participant intends to designate a Senior Official as "Coordinator" to supervise and coordinate the planning, performance, evaluation, and approval of cooperative activities carried out under this MOU. The Embassy of Denmark is expected to be the focal point for the contribution of Danish knowledge and experience related to this MOU, including knowledge sharing in connection with bilateral visits between Denmark and the U.S. The Embassy of Denmark will coordinate with the Ministry of Environment and Food, and the Danish Water Technology Alliance in Palo Alto and Chicago.

The Governor's Office in California is expected to be the focal point for Californian coordination and engagement related to this MOU, and plans to coordinate with other relevant Californian government entities and other parties as needed.

Section 4 – Encouragement of Participation

The Participants intend to encourage, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations, government institutions, businesses, research institutions, water utilities, counties, cities, and municipalities to participate in cooperative activities in further support of the objectives of this MOU.

Section 5 – Costs

Nothing in this MOU represents a commitment of funds by either of the Participants.

Section 6 – No Implied Liability

The Participants understand that cooperative efforts and activities under this MOU are considered by the Participants to be facilitated exchange of information only, and not advice or consultancy.

Section 7 – Modification Procedure

This MOU may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants.

Section 8 – Dispute Resolution

Any dispute about the interpretation or implementation of the MOU should be resolved through consultations between the Participants.

Section 9 – Term

This MOU is intended to be effective upon signature, and in effect for five years from the date of final execution. Either Participant may discontinue this MOU by means of a written notice to the other Participant. Discontinuation should take effect three months following the date of notification, and should not affect activities already under implementation.

Signed in New York on September 19th, in duplicate, in the English language.

For the Government of the Kingdom of
Denmark:

For the Governor of California;
