

Attachment A to Agenda File No. 2024-319

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING GRATITUDE FOR CALIFORNIA SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE TONI G. ATKINS FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE SAN DIEGO REGION AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, born in rural southwestern Virginia to a miner and a seamstress, earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Emory & Henry College in Virginia, and in 1985, she relocated to San Diego, California, to assist in caring for her sister's young son while her sister served in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, in San Diego, before entering public service, Atkins worked as an aide to San Diego City Councilmember and LGBT pioneer Christine Kehoe;

WHEREAS, in 2000, Atkins was elected to succeed Kehoe as the representative for the council's District 3 and served as interim Mayor of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Atkins was elected to the California Assembly, where she served for six years and was chosen by her colleagues as Speaker, becoming the first openly LGBTQ person and San Diegan to hold the position; and

WHEREAS, elected in 2016 to represent the 39th District in the California Senate, Atkins became the first woman and openly LGBTQ person to serve as Senate President pro Tempore, continuing her advocacy for women's rights, LGBTQ rights, climate action, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Atkins is the first person in 150 years, and the third in California's history, to lead both houses of the California State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, among her many legislative accomplishments, she authored legislation that protected the Otay, Sweetwater, and Tijuana Rivers and their watersheds; supported the local fishing industry through the establishment of a dockside fish market; streamlined the management of tide and submerged lands within the San Diego Bay by transferring ownership from the State Lands Commission to the Port of San Diego; directed sea level rise planning, policies, and activities; established defined targets and accountability to ensure California reaches its goal of achieving 100 percent renewable energy use by 2045; and played a key role in securing emergency COVID relief funds used to protect critical infrastructure and essential employees of San Diego Unified Port District (District), boosting the region's economic recovery and enabling the District to continue fulfilling its public-serving mission.

NOW, therefore, be it proclaimed that the District Board of Port Commissioners fully extends to Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins all due recognition for her many exceptional achievements and salutes her for her decades of exemplary service to the people of San Diego region and to the State of California.