

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
PORT OF ENSENADA TO COMMEMORATE THE
20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER PORT
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PORT OF
ENSENADA AND THE PORT OF SAN DIEGO AND
UPDATE AREAS OF COLLABORATION AND
COOPERATION**

WHEREAS, the San Diego Unified Port District (“District”) is a public corporation created by the Legislature in 1962 pursuant to Harbors and Navigation Code Appendix I (“Port Act”); and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2004, representatives from the Ports of San Diego and Ensenada met to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize a sister-port relationship and commence discussions on areas of mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS, based on current and historical discussions, areas of mutual interest include a potential passenger ferry service between Ensenada and San Diego, cruise marketing and development, and aquaculture; and

WHEREAS, recently, staff members of both ports have engaged in reciprocal visits and discussions to evaluate a potential ferry service which have resulted in notable developments including Azteca Ferries (a private Mexican entity) purchasing an existing international ferry vessel (Victoria Clipper IV) which is in dry dock undergoing system and engine upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board has given Azteca Ferries tentative approval for the vessel to operate in state waters under the condition that the vessel’s engines are upgraded to the cleanest tier, “tier IV”; and

WHEREAS, after the retrofit, the U.S. Coast Guard can begin its certification process while the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be assessing the Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier to identify potential required upgrades to clear ferry passengers into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new MOU will formalize the working discussions taking place regarding the proposed ferry service, reaffirm the 20-year relationship which include other areas of mutual interest such as cruise business marketing, aquaculture, and other mutual beneficial areas as agreed upon by both parties; and

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WHEREAS, a celebration to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the original MOU signing will be held at the Port's Broadway Pier Pavilion on September 25, 2024 wherein a ceremonial signing of the new MOU will be held.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Port Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board and/or Executive Director or their designated representative to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of Ensenada to Commemorate the 20th Year Anniversary of the Sister Port Relationship Between the Port of Ensenada and the Port of San Diego and Update Areas of Collaboration and Cooperation.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:
GENERAL COUNSEL

By: Assistant/Deputy

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, this 10th day of September 2024, by the following vote: