

FILE NUMBER: 2024-329

DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Green Port Month, Year In Review, and MCAS Highlights Report

DESCRIPTION: Informational Presentation Celebrating Green Port Month and Providing a Summary of the 2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review and the 2023-2024 Maritime Clean Air Strategy Highlights Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2008, the Board authorized a proclamation to annually recognize September as Green Port Month. The purpose of Green Port Month is to build awareness and celebrate the District's environmental initiatives, as well as encourage employees to manage resources in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner. The 2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review includes a summary of the District's accomplishments to improve the environmental quality of San Diego Bay and its Tidelands.

In addition, a high-level status update on the goals and objectives of the Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) will be shared in the form of a Highlights Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year which provides a summary of completed initiatives as well as a look ahead of upcoming projects that will satisfy several near-term goals and objectives to be accomplished by 2026 and long-term goals for 2030.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the 2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review, Green Port Month, and the 2023-2024 Maritime Clean Air Strategy Highlights Report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Board action has no fiscal impact to the District.

COMPASS STRATEGIC GOALS:

This agenda item supports the following Strategic Goal(s).

- A Port that the public understands and trusts.
- A Port with a healthy and sustainable bay and its environment.
- A Port with a comprehensive vision for Port land and water uses integrated to regional plans.
- A financially sustainable Port that drives job creation and regional economic vitality.

DISCUSSION:

Green Port Month 2024

The District's Green Port Policy, BPC Policy No. 736, sets the framework for driving environmental, economic, and social sustainability for the organization (Attachment A). First issued in 2008 and then updated in 2017, the Board authorized proclamations to annually recognize September as Green Port Month (Attachment B). September 2024 marks the seventeenth consecutive year the District has celebrated Green Port Month. The purpose of Green Port Month is to build awareness about the District's environmental initiatives and encourage employees to manage resources in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner.

2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review

Since the inception of Green Port Month in 2008, the District has promoted a diverse range of initiatives that support the mission of protecting and improving the environmental conditions of San Diego Bay and the Tidelands. Each year, a summary of signature achievements are presented in the annual Green Port Year in Review which recognizes a broad spectrum of environmental management accomplishments.

Referencing the theme of "Innovating Through Collaborative Leadership", the 2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review highlights important partnerships to advance the District's environmental initiatives. The report provides important data regarding the District's leadership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, remove debris from San Diego Bay, and implement Blue Economy Incubator projects. The report also features the District's programs to educate community members, forge future environmental leaders, and much more (Attachment C).

Green Port Month Events

Throughout the month of September, District employees are encouraged to become ambassadors of the District's Green Port programs and participate in events that incorporate sustainability at work and in their homes. Events for 2024 include:

- Organic Waste Educational Events – Throughout September
- Thrift Shop Hosted by General Services – September 6, 2024
- Michelle White Environmental Awards - September 10, 2024
- #ThatsMyBay Service Day – September 19, 2024
- Green Mic & Eco-Potluck – September 20, 2024
- California Coastal Clean Up Day - September 21, 2024

2023-2024 Maritime Clean Air Strategy Highlights Report

Adopted in October 2021, the Maritime Clean Air strategy (MCAS) recommends a high-level status update on the goals and objectives identified in the MCAS, be provided to the Board once a year.

The 2023-2024 MCAS Highlights Report provides a summary of the completed initiatives as well as a look ahead of upcoming projects that will satisfy several near-term goals and objectives to be accomplished by 2026 and long-term goals for 2030 (Attachment D). In addition to providing an update on the MCAS goals and objectives, the Highlights Report also includes a summary of funding and statistics related to the advancement of MCAS

objectives and a recap of the community outreach and engagement events that were conducted throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

General Counsel's Comments:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed and approved this agenda, as presented, as to form and legality.

Environmental Review:

This Board item does not constitute an “approval” or a “project” under the definitions set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15352 and 15378 because no direct or indirect changes to the physical environment would occur. CEQA requires that the District adequately assess the environmental impacts of its projects and reasonably foreseeable activities that may result from projects prior to the approval of the same. Any project approval resulting in a physical change to the environment will be analyzed in accordance with CEQA prior to such approval. CEQA review may result in the District, in its sole and absolute discretion, requiring implementation of mitigation measures, adopting an alternative, including without limitation, a “no project alternative” or adopting a Statement of Overriding Consideration, if required. The current Board direction in no way limits the exercise of this discretion. Therefore, no further CEQA review is required.

In addition, this Board item complies with Section 87 of the Port Act, which allows for the establishment, improvement, and conduct of a harbor, and for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operation of wharves, docks, piers, slips, quays, and all other works, buildings, facilities, utilities, structures, and appliances incidental, necessary, or convenient, for the promotion and accommodation of commerce and navigation. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, this update is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

Finally, this Board item does not allow for “development,” as defined in Section 30106 of the California Coastal Act, or “new development,” pursuant to Section 1.a. of the District’s Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Regulations because it will not result in, without limitation, a physical change, change in use or increase the intensity of uses. Therefore, issuance of a Coastal Development Permit or exclusion is not required. However, development within the District requires processing under the District’s CDP Regulations. Future development, as defined in Section 30106 of the Coastal Act, will remain subject to its own independent review pursuant to the District’s certified CDP Regulations, PMP, and Chapters 3 and 8 of the Coastal Act. The Board’s direction in no way limits the exercise of the District’s discretion under the District’s CDP Regulations.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program:

This agenda sheet has no direct DEI impact on District workforce or contract reporting at this time.

PREPARED BY:

Cashin Brown
Assistant Environmental Specialist, Climate & Sustainability

Attachment(s):

Attachment A:	BPC Policy No. 736 Green Port Policy
Attachment B:	2017 Proclamation of September as Green Port Month
Attachment C:	2023-2024 Green Port Year in Review
Attachment D:	2023-2024 MCAS Highlights Report