

FILE NUMBER: 2025-084

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Maritime Stakeholder Forum

DESCRIPTION: A) Resolution Waiving Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 018A, Section 3 to Allow Three Commissioners to Participate in the Maritime Stakeholder Forum During 2025. B) Resolution Approving the Calendar Year 2025 Annual Work-Plan of the Maritime Stakeholder Forum Pursuant to Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 018A.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

BPC Policy No. 018A, Board Stakeholder Forum (Forum) was adopted on February 12, 2013, to provide a venue for the San Diego Unified Port District (District), Port tenants, stakeholders, and other interested persons to discuss and provide input regarding issues being addressed by the Forum pursuant to an annual work-plan approved by the Board of Port Commissioners (Board).

Section 3 of the Policy Statement in part states, “The Chair of the Board [Chair] may appoint two members of the Board to serve on a Forum as facilitators only.” In 2025, the Port of San Diego is fortunate to have several Commissioners who have expressed interest in participating at the Maritime Stakeholder Forum. As such, the Chair has assigned two primary facilitators, and a rotating third Commissioner for each respective quarter of the year. Staff recommends waiving the two-Commissioner limit in BPC Policy No. 018A and allow three Commissioners to participate in the Maritime Stakeholder Forum during 2025 as assigned by the Chair.

Additionally, Section 4 of the Policy Statement sets forth procedures for the Board Stakeholder Forums, to establish annual work-plans to be adopted by the Board. This year the Chair re-established the Maritime Stakeholder Forum (MSF), which was originally formed in August 2017. Pursuant to BPC Policy No. 018A, staff, with input from stakeholders has prepared the calendar year 2025 Annual Work-Plan and recommends approval of the annual work-plan.

Staff recommends the approval of the Maritime Stakeholder Forum 2025 Work-Plan. The proposed Work-Plan includes:

1. Ways to foster innovative Maritime business and trade development
2. Ways to enhance Maritime industry relationships
3. Cargo Business Update
4. Cruise Business Update
5. Maritime Month

6. Planning and Green Port Initiatives Related to Maritime and Regulatory Update
7. Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) Update
8. Maritime Infrastructure Update
9. Stakeholder Highlights: Cargo, Cruise, Shipbuilding / Ship Repair, Commercial Fishing, and Service Provider
10. Other Significant Emergent Maritime Issues

RECOMMENDATION:

A. Adopt a Resolution waiving Board of Port Commissioners Policy No. 018A, Section 3, to allow three Commissioners to participate in the Maritime Stakeholder Forum during 2025.

B. Adopt a Resolution approving the 2025 Annual Work-Plan for the Maritime Stakeholder Forum pursuant to BPC Policy No. 018A.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There's no fiscal impact caused by approval of this action.

COMPASS STRATEGIC GOALS:

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

- A Port that the public understands and trusts.
- A thriving and modern maritime seaport.
- A vibrant waterfront destination where residents and visitors converge.
- 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 Port that is a safe place to visit, work and play.
- A Port with an innovative and motivated workforce.
- A financially sustainable Port that drives job creation and regional economic vitality.

DISCUSSION:

Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 018A, Board Stakeholder Forums (Forum) was adopted on February 12, 2013, to provide a venue for the District, Port tenants, key stakeholder, and other interested persons to discuss and provide input regarding issues being addressed by the Forum pursuant to an annual ti an annual work-plan approved by the Board.

The Maritime Stakeholder Forum, which has been convened as-needed from year-to-year has been successful in providing an open and transparent forum where Port tenants and key stakeholders are able to provide input and discuss matters of mutual interest.

In late 2024, the Office of the District Clerk, polled the Commissioners regarding interest in serving on the Maritime Stakeholder Forum for 2025, several Commissioners expressed an interest in serving: Anne Moore (Vice Chair), Dan Malcolm (Member), GilAnthony Ungab (Member), Frank Urtasun (Member), Sid Voorakkara (Member), Michael Zucchet (Member). However, Section 3 of BPC Policy No. 018A states in part, “The Chair [Board of Port Commissioner] may appoint two members of the Board to serve on a Forum as facilitators only.” Therefore, the Maritime Department recommends that the Board adopt a Resolution waiving BPC Policy No. 018A, Section 3, to allow three Commissioners to participate, with Vice Chair Moore and Commissioner Malcolm facilitating every meeting, along with the following rotation of a third Commissioner: Commissioner Ungab joining in the first quarterly meeting, Commissioner Urtasun joining in the second quarterly meeting, Commissioner Voorakkara joining the third quarterly meeting, and Commissioner Zucchet joining the fourth quarterly meeting for calendar year 2025.

Staff will ensure that the Commissioners are prepared to report out on meetings of the Maritime Stakeholder Forum each month at the regular Board of Port Commissioners, maritime, regarding any discussion items before the Forum during the prior month.

Maritime Stakeholder Forum Charter

The highlights of the Forum’s Charter approved by the Board in 2017 include the following: Forum composition will consist of two members of the Board of Port Commissioners, maritime staff, and a representative cross-section of maritime, community, and civic stakeholders, adjacent communities, and is open to the public.

The goals of the Forum include:

1. Fostering innovative maritime business and trade development.
2. Enhancing maritime industry relationships and relationships with adjacent communities, including balancing business goals with improving the environment, public health, and worker health and safety.
3. Providing stakeholder feedback on significant Maritime projects/plans, including the Port Master Plan Update and preservation of maritime property and Coastal Act issues.

The Forum will meet at least quarterly to discuss items on the Board-approved annual work-plan.

The Forum will have no authority to negotiate for, represent, or commit the District in any respect. There will be no voting on any matter being discussed by the Forum participants.

The Forum was created to provide a venue to discuss the topics stated in the Board approved annual work-plan. The Board retains the final authority on all matters. Forum participants are not authorized to give direction to District staff.

Forum discussions will be focused on items contained in the annual work-plan adopted by the Board. Annual work-plans may be modified by the Board.

District staff will support requests for information and will create summary reports of the Forum discussions for the Board after each session is held.

The public is welcome to attend, and there will be an opportunity for public comment at each Forum meeting.

Proposed 2025 Annual Work-Plan

Staff recommends the approval of the Maritime Stakeholder Forum 2025 Work-Plan. The proposed Work-Plan includes:

1. Ways to foster innovative Maritime business and trade development
2. Ways to enhance Maritime industry relationships
3. Cargo Business Update
4. Cruise Business Update
5. Maritime Month
6. Planning and Green Port Initiatives Related to Maritime and Regulatory Update
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8. Maritime Infrastructure Update
9. Stakeholder Highlights: Cargo, Cruise, Shipbuilding / Ship Repair, Commercial Fishing, and Service Provider
10. Other Significant Emergent Maritime Issues

General Counsel's Comments:

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

Environmental Review:

The proposed Board actions, including without limitation a Resolution Waiving Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 018A, Section 3 to Allow Three Commissioners to Serve as Facilitators for the Maritime Stakeholder Forum During 2025 and Resolution Approving the Calendar Year 2025 Annual Work-Plan of the Maritime Stakeholder Forum Pursuant to Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 018A, do not constitute a project under the definition set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 because there is not a potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, the proposed Board actions are not subject to CEQA and no further action under CEQA is required.

The proposed Board actions comply with Section 21 and 35 of the Port Act which allow for the Board to pass resolutions and to do all acts necessary and convenient for the exercise of its powers. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed Board actions are consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

The proposed Board actions do 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 Regulations. Therefore, issuance of a Coastal Development Permit or an exclusion finding is not required.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program:

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

PREPARED BY:

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Attachment(s):

Attachment A: BPC Policy No. 18-A
Attachment B: Maritime Stakeholder Forum 2025 Work-Plan
Attachment C: Draft Resolution