

DRAFT**RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx****RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUANCE
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE
PRESENCE OF THE INVASIVE ALGAE
CAULERPA PROLIFERA**

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 1 (Port Act); and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2023, an approximately 24 square meter patch of Caulerpa prolifera (Caulerpa) was discovered growing underneath and adjacent to boat docks along the eastern edge of Antigua Village; and

WHEREAS, in October 2023, an approximately 0.25 acre patch of Caulerpa was discovered along the northern edge of Antigua Village within the Coronado Cays; and

WHEREAS, while these algae are not harmful to humans, Caulerpa is highly invasive with the ability to rapidly expand reproducing even asexually, through vegetative fragmentation from contact with vessels, fishing, and tidal exchanges; and

WHEREAS, since Caulerpa can aggressively expand, it has the potential to displace native habitats including the 1,900 acres of eelgrass habitat in South San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, any impacts to eelgrass could displace numerous other species in San Diego Bay including the 70 different fish species and the 60-80 threatened green sea turtles which utilize eelgrass as foraging and resting habitat; and

WHEREAS, since the discovery, staff has been working diligently with the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT) consisting of state and federal resource agencies to implement an immediate response to prevent the spread and further infestation of this algae; and

WHEREAS, in March 2024, divers completed the placement of benthic barriers over the known infestation areas in Antigua Village, Coronado Cays; and

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WHEREAS, in April 2024, a 15 square meter patch of additional Caulerpa was discovered about 1,000 feet from the Cays shoreline, spread over 0.25 acres; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2025, additional small patches of Caulerpa were found adjacent to the existing Caulerpa patches; and

WHEREAS, these patches have all been covered with salt, netting and benthic barriers to prevent the spread and to assist with eradication efforts; and

WHEREAS, diver surveys continue in South San Diego Bay to ensure the containment of this algae; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2023, by Resolution No. 2023-101, the Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) adopted a proclamation of a local emergency due to the discovery of the extremely invasive algae, Caulerpa prolifera in the Coronado Cays, South San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, BPC Policy No. 777, dated June 23, 2020, (Clerks Document #71570), details the District's Emergency Management policy, which requires the BPC review the need for the continuation of the local emergency at least every 60 days until the local emergency is terminated; and

WHEREAS, since the initial proclamation of a local emergency, there have been multiple continuances of the local emergency by the BPC due to the existence of the invasive algae, Caulerpa prolifera in the Coronado Cays, South San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2023, by Resolution No. 2023-112, the BPC continued the proclamation of a local emergency to February 5, 2024; on January 18, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-002, the BPC continued the proclamation to March 18, 2024; on March 12, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-017, the BPC continued the proclamation to May 12, 2024; on April 3, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-037, the BPC continued the proclamation to June 2, 2024; on May 14, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-050, the BPC continued the proclamation to July 14, 2024; on July 9, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-067, the BPC continued the proclamation to September 7, 2024; on August 13, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-074, the BPC continued the proclamation to October 12, 2024; on September 20, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-087, the BPC continued the proclamation to November 19, 2024; on November 13, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-112, the BPC continued the proclamation to January 12, 2025; on December 10, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-124, the BPC continued the proclamation to February 8, 2025; on January 14, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-008, the BPC continued the proclamation to March 15, 2025; on March 11, 2025 by Resolution No. 2025-025, the BPC continued the proclamation to May 10, 2025; on May 6, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-048, the BPC continued the

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proclamation to July 5, 2025; and on June 6, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-065, the BPC continued the proclamation to August 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the proclamation will expire, unless continued by this action; and

WHEREAS, another continuance of the proclamation of a local emergency is needed due to the continued presence of *Caulerpa prolifera* in the Coronado Cays and South San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, the local emergency will assist in securing additional funding from federal and state grant sources to eradicate the invasive algae; and

WHEREAS, continuing a timely and assertive response is imperative to control the expansion of *Caulerpa prolifera*; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and District funding has been used to complete this work to date and additional future resources are being sought and will be needed to continue this work throughout an extensive part of South San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends continuing the declaration of a local emergency at the July 15, 2025, BPC meeting as the current 60-day period will end on August 5, 2025, prior to the August 12, 2025, BPC meeting; and

WHEREAS, based on the continued presence and the threat presented by *Caulerpa* to San Diego Bay, staff recommends that the Board continue the proclamation of a Local Emergency consistent with BPC Policy No. 777, which will continue the local emergency for an additional 60 days to September 13, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that the local emergency declared by the BPC on June 6, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-065, is continued.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this District shall be those prescribed by BPC Policy No. 777, state law, ordinances and resolutions of the District.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this emergency proclamation shall continue and expire on September 13, 2025, which is 60 days from the date of this proclamation, unless confirmed and extended by the BPC prior to the expiration date.

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:
GENERAL COUNSEL

By: Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the
San Diego Unified Port District, this 15th day of July 2025, by the following vote: