## PROCLAMATION DESIGNATION OF JULY 2025 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH San Diego Unified Port District

WHEREAS, parks, recreation, and activation programs are essential public assets that enrich communities across the country, including those served by the San Diego Unified Port District; and

WHEREAS, our parks, recreation, and activation programs are critical to maintaining quality of life, promoting public health, and contributing to the economic and environmental vitality of the region; and

WHEREAS, the District oversees over 600 use permits annually and manages a portfolio of world-class public assets, including 23 parks, two cruise terminal venues, a community center, five fishing piers, four public boat launches, and over 70 distinct public artworks, along with countless miles of open plazas, promenades, and gathering spaces that support tourism, business development, and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, parks and open spaces offer access to nature, provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, protect groundwater, mitigate flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and help preserve the ecological beauty of the waterfront while providing space for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, parks, recreation, and activation programs promote physical activity, access to nature, aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who live with mental or physical disabilities, and generally improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks remain among the most inclusive and accessible spaces for gathering, connection, and civic life, strengthening community ties and opportunities for shared cultural experiences; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Unified Port District recognizes the enduring value of public parks, recreation and activation resources, and the critical role they play in building thriving, connected communities;

NOW, therefore, the Board of Port Commissioners and the staff of the San Diego Unified Port District do hereby proclaim July as Parks and Recreation Month.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025 (All Commissioners to sign)