

**DRAFT****RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx****RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUANCE  
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE  
PRESENCE OF THE INVASIVE ALGA 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 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 invasive alga *Caulerpa prolifera* in the Coronado Cays, South San Diego Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, *Caulerpa prolifera* is a highly invasive alga with the ability to rapidly expand by reproducing asexually through vegetative fragmentation from contact with vessels, fishing, and tidal exchanges; and

**WHEREAS**, while this alga is not harmful to humans, *Caulerpa* can aggressively expand and has the potential to displace native habitats including the 1,900 acres of eelgrass in South San Diego Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, any impacts to eelgrass could displace numerous other species, including the 70 different fish species and the 100+ threatened green sea turtles which utilize eelgrass as foraging and resting habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing the timely and assertive response is imperative to control the expansion of the *Caulerpa prolifera*, 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 seventeen (17) continuances of the local emergency by the BPC due to the existence of the invasive alga *Caulerpa prolifera* in the Coronado Cays, South San Diego Bay; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and District funding has been used to complete the surveys and additional future resources are being sought to continue surveys and treatment throughout the 3,000 acres of South San Diego Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the District was recently awarded grant funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's rapid response fund for \$100,000; and

**WHEREAS**, while all known patches of *Caulerpa prolifera* are covered with benthic barriers, divers continue to conduct *Caulerpa* surveys in South Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the known patches of *Caulerpa prolifera* will be surveyed again this fall; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to declare that *Caulerpa* has been eradicated from the Bay, two years of monitoring with no new *Caulerpa* findings is required; and

**WHEREAS**, another continuance of the proclamation of a local emergency is needed due to the continued presence of *Caulerpa* 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**, based on the continued presence and the threat presented by *Caulerpa prolifera* to San Diego Bay, staff recommends that the BPC 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 February 7, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that the local emergency declared by the BPC on November 4, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-114, 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.

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**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that this emergency proclamation shall continue and expire on February 7, 2026, which is 60 days from the date of this proclamation, unless confirmed and extended by the BPC prior to the expiration date.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:  
GENERAL COUNSEL

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By: Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025, by the following vote: