

**DRAFT****RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx****RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUANCE  
OF A “LOCAL EMERGENCY” DUE TO THE  
PRESENCE OF AN INVASIVE ALGAE CAULERPA  
PROLIFERA IN THE CORONADO CAYS, SOUTH  
SAN DIEGO BAY**

**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* 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 prolifera* 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**, 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 algae *Caulerpa prolifera* in the Coronado Cays, South San Diego Bay; and

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**WHEREAS**, BPC Policy No. 777, dated June 23, 2020, (Clerks Document #71570), details the District's Emergency Management policy, which requires the Board 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 ongoing 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; then on January 18, 2024 by Resolution No. 2024-002 the BPC continued the proclamation to March 18, 2024; and then on March 12, 2024 by Resolution No. 2024-017 the proclamation was continued to May 12, 2024; then on April 3, 2024 by Resolution No 2024-037 the proclamation was continued to June 2, 2024; and then on May 14, 2024 by Resolution No 2024-050 the proclamation was continued until July 14, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the May 14, 2024 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 continued funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Cleanup and Abatement Account and other grant sources, to eradicate these invasive algae; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the continued presence and the threat presented by *Caulerpa* 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 September 7, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the facts recited hereinabove and detailed in the corresponding agenda sheet, the existing and threatened conditions continue to cause extreme peril to the safety of property within the District's jurisdiction; the existing and threatened conditions are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and may require the supplemental efforts and available resources of other local government entities, the state and/or federal government, and/or disaster relief organizations to help alleviate the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that the local emergency declared by the BPC on May 14, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-050 continues and is extended based on the continued presence of the invasive *Caulerpa prolifera* algae in San Diego Bay.

**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 to and expire on September 7, 2024, 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 9th day of July 2024, by the following vote: