

**FILE NUMBER: 2024-305**

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024

**SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Month**

**DESCRIPTION: Resolution Proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Following its launch by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in 1985, Parks and Recreation Month is celebrated each July by parks and recreation professionals across the nation. Parks and Recreation Month promotes the vital importance of parks and recreation in health and wellness, economic prosperity, environmental conservation, and social equity. This annual celebration also recognizes the thousands of parks and recreation employees that manage and maintain our nation's local, state, and community parks each day.

From protecting public recreation space and natural resources to bolstering the tourism economy and promoting health and well-being by providing places, activities, and resources that help prevent chronic disease and support mental and emotional health, parks and recreation services are critical to maintaining the quality of life in our communities. Parks and Recreation Month encourages everyone to acknowledge and appreciate the infinite value parks and recreation bring to our communities.

The District's Parks & Recreation department manages public access to 22 beautiful parks for the benefit of public recreation, passive enjoyment, community gatherings, special events, and the display of a collection of public artworks to enhance the waterfront experience. Parks and Recreation Month raises public awareness about the role of open public space and recreation in communities and people's lives; it encourages individuals and organizations to participate in outdoor recreational activities and allows governments and businesses to show their commitment to planning and maintaining green spaces in urban settings. The proposed proclamation marks the District's sixth year acknowledging its long-standing commitment to stewardship and professional management of its parks for the enrichment of residents and visitors to the region.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution Proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item has no fiscal impact.

**COMPASS STRATEGIC GOALS:**

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

- A Port that the public understands and trusts.
- A vibrant waterfront destination where residents and visitors converge.
- 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:**

The District manages a dynamic and diverse 34-mile natural waterfront for the people of California, and the use of these Port tidelands for recreational purposes is incorporated in both the Port Act and Tidelands Trust Doctrine. The District's waterfront features 22 beautiful parks, as well as public boat launches, fishing piers, venue facilities, and a diverse collection of public artworks, all of which are managed by the Parks & Recreation department. District parks include several amenities and myriad options for the public to recreate and enjoy the waterfront. Whether it's a leisurely visit to take in the view while strolling along the bay or attending one of the many world-class special events that enliven the waterfront with unique cultural experiences, the tidelands offer something for everyone.

The Parks & Recreation department supports waterfront recreation in District parks and public spaces by providing day-to-day customer service; managing spaces for vending and performance activities; negotiating large, tourism-generating event partnerships; issuing over 500 use permits in a typical year; producing community activation events; administering event-sponsorship grants under the Tidelands Activation Program; and professional stewardship of the Tidelands Art Collection, a regional cultural asset.

The tourism sector is an important economic driver to the regional and national economies as it draws visitors to the District's beautiful waterfront and encourages them to stay longer. With people now returning to traveling and to experiences and activities that were previously part of their everyday lives, Parks and Recreation Month acknowledges that important role of tourism, leisure, and recreation in support of businesses, hotels and organizations in their efforts to rebound from the setbacks of the global pandemic and plays a significant role in helping the economy start expanding.

From protecting public recreation space and natural resources to bolstering the economy and promoting health and well-being by providing places, activities, and resources that support physical, mental and emotional health, parks and recreation services are critical to maintaining the quality of life in our communities. Parks and Recreation Month encourages everyone to acknowledge and appreciate the infinite value parks and recreation brings to our communities. Local community members and visitors are encouraged to visit the District's parks in July in support of the annual celebration of National Parks and Recreation Month and return year-round to enjoy all that our dynamic waterfront has to offer. Information about the parks and amenities are available on the District's website and in printed resources: *Discover Your Wonderfront Parks & Piers* booklet and the *Immerse Yourself in the Arts - Six Self-guided Tours Around San Diego Bay* booklet.

The proposed proclamation (Attachment A) recognizing July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month will raise public awareness about the role of open public space and recreation in people's lives and communities and will reaffirm the District's long-standing commitment to stewardship and professional management of its parks for the enrichment of residents and visitors to the region.

**General Counsel's Comments:**

The General Counsel's Office has reviewed this agenda and attachments, as presented to it, and approves the same as to form and legality.

**Environmental Review:**

The proposed Board action, including without limitation proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month, does 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 action is not subject to CEQA and no further action under CEQA is required.

The proposed Board action complies with Sections 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 action is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

The proposed Board action does 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 DEI impact on District workforce or contract reporting at this time.

**PREPARED BY:**

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Attachment(s):

Attachment A: Proclamation Designating July 2024 as "Parks & Recreation Month"