

Introduction to the San Diego Unified Port District:
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
June 21, 2017 Board Meeting

The Port of San Diego (Port) serves the people of California as a specially created public benefit corporation and special district, balancing multiple uses on 34 miles along San Diego Bay spanning five cities, San Diego, Chula Vista National City, Imperial Beach, and Coronado. The Port champions Maritime, Water Development, Public Safety, Experiences and Environment, all focused on enriching the relationship people and businesses have with our dynamic waterfront. The Port's multiple land uses include cargo and cruise terminals, hotels, restaurants, marinas, museums, and 22 public parks which host community events throughout the year, the Port contributes to the region's prosperity while maintaining environmental vitality.

Created in 1962 for the people of the State of California, it is the duty of the Port to oversee public and private investment on the tidelands in a manner that best serves the public trust and consistent with the Port Act, the California Coastal Act (for the portion of the Port in the coastal zone), and the Public Trust Doctrine. In this role, the Port develops, manages, and promotes commerce, navigation, fisheries, recreation, and environmental stewardship for San Diego Bay in accordance with those governing doctrines. The Port has developed several key programs to balance its responsibilities and ensure the sustainability of the Bay.

The Port Master Plan serves as a planning blueprint to assess development proposals and conserve important natural resources in and around San Diego Bay. The Port Master Plan is currently being updated; a process that will be the first comprehensive update of the Port Master Plan in the Port's history. This multi-year integrated planning process reflects a comprehensive public engagement effort and represents a balanced approach to the broad desires and inputs from various interest groups in the region, including stakeholders, tenants, business groups, environmental conservationists, the military and the member jurisdictions. The comprehensive Port Master Plan Update will connect the tidelands through a series of networks and Planning Districts. It will control the allowable land and water uses, type and characteristics of development, recreation, and environmental conservation throughout the Port's jurisdiction. The Port's planning and real estate roles serve to ensure development occurs consistent with the Port Master Plan, the coastal act and the public trust doctrine.

Protecting the bay and its valuable resources is important component of the Port's mission. Environmental stewardship comes in many forms and the Port has developed several comprehensive programs dedicated to natural resource management, climate change and resiliency, energy efficiency, environmental compliance, and environmental education. The Port is strategically aligned and works in collaboration with numerous state agencies including: the State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission, the State Department of Boating and Waterways and the U.S Department of Fish and Wildlife. These partnerships are critical to protect and enhance the bay's

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valuable habitats and ensure the long term sustainability of the bay's resources in a manner that creates resiliency to future impacts such as upstream pollution or sea level changes.

The unique organizational structure of the Port aligns closely with the San Diego Waterboard's mission, *Practical Vision and Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay*. Several areas of interest overlap where strategic alignment can provide a mutual co-benefit for each agency's mission. For example, the Port currently conducts long term monitoring of bay's resources: waters; sediment; species; and habitats; data which should be the foundation for a comprehensive assessment of beneficial uses. Additionally, coordination and consistency on climate change efforts and policy development will serve to build long-term resiliency on the Bayfront and tidelands. Other areas where agency coordination could provide mutual benefit include efforts to understand and mitigate upstream pollution sources and eliminate legacy pollution. As such, alignment between the Port and San Diego Waterboard is mutually beneficial.

This Board presentation will provide an overview of the Port's role and governing doctrines, the planning process with some examples of projects currently being processed, and the various environmental programs in place to promote the mutual vision for a healthy and sustainable San Diego Bay.