

DRAFT**RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx****RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A LOCAL
EMERGENCY DUE TO THE DISCOVERY OF AN
INVASIVE ALGAE *CAULERPA PROLIFERA*
FOUND 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, in accordance with Board of Port Commissioners (BPC), Policy No. 777, Emergency Management, as amended by the BPC by Resolution 2020-045 (April 14, 2020), the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer may request the BPC proclaim a local emergency when such conditions exist that are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and which 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; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, 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 within the Coronado Cays; and

WHEREAS, while this algae is 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 even tidal exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the presence of *Caulerpa* has caused significant and expensive damage to coastal waters in California and the Mediterranean Sea, warranting immediate action to eradicate any observed presence of the algae; and

WHEREAS, South San Diego Bay is home to 1,900 acres of eelgrass which could be overgrown and displaced by *Caulerpa*; and

WHEREAS, any spread of *Caulerpa prolifera* into the south bay eelgrass beds has the potential to impact the Bay's 70 fish species and 60-80 threatened green sea turtles which reside in or forage on eelgrass; and

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WHEREAS, since the discovery, staff has been working diligently with the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT) consisting of state and federal agencies to develop and implement an immediate response plan to prevent further infestation of this algae; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2023, the infestation of *Caulerpa prolifera* found in the Coronado Cays within District jurisdiction, was treated by the placement of a benthic barrier to prevent the spread of the algae; and

WHEREAS, additional *Caulerpa prolifera* surveys were conducted from October 6 through October 25, 2023, which identified additional *Caulerpa prolifera* infestations within the Coronado Cays, just outside of the District's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, significant funding will be required to determine the extent of the *Caulerpa prolifera* infestation in San Diego Bay and for the eradication of the *Caulerpa prolifera* found to date; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Cleanup and Abatement Account has up to \$500,000 in funds to support the eradication efforts and the additional surveys that are required to determine the extent of the algae infestation; and

WHEREAS, District staff has been informed that to secure funding through the SWRCB Cleanup and Abatement Account, a proclamation must be made declaring a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, based on the facts recited hereinabove and detailed in the corresponding agenda sheet, the existing and threatened conditions to cause extreme peril to the safety of property within the District's jurisdiction caused by *Caulerpa prolifera*; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists based on the discovery of invasive *Caulerpa prolifera* algae.

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 Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) Policy No. 777, state law, ordinances and resolutions of the District.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this emergency proclamation shall expire on January 13, 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

By: Assistant/Deputy

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, this 14th day of November 2023 by the following vote: