

Subject: Letter of Support for Commissioner Sandy Naranjo's Candidacy for Board Chair
November 14, 2023

Members of the Board of Port Commissioners
Sandy Diego Unified Port District
3165 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

RE: ACTION AGENDA ITEM #15: RESOLUTION ELECTING CHAIRPERSON, VICE
CHAIRPERSON, AND
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS FOR 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Port Commissioners,

We, the undersigned organizations and community leaders, are writing to express our strong support for Commissioner Sandy Naranjo's candidacy for the position of Board Chair. Commissioner Naranjo has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the well-being of Environmental Justice Communities and has been a tireless advocate for the public interest.

We are disheartened by the recent decision to censure Commissioner Naranjo and remove her from her elected position as Vice Chair. In our thorough review of the post-vote censure report, we find the claims against Commissioner Naranjo lacking in grounds and marred by bias, selective investigation, and misrepresentation of her actions.

The report references a two-year-old conflict of interest issue that was internally documented as closed, with no evidence of wrongdoing. In contrast, other commissioners and the general counsel engage in similar activities with no comparable scrutiny. Commissioner Naranjo's concerns about potential conflicts of interest in a multi-million dollar deal involving former Port of Los Angeles Commission Chair Nicolas Tonsich raise valid questions that have not been adequately addressed by the Board.

The censure appears to be based on a closed two-year-old inquiry that led nowhere and a one-time questioning of the handling of the Tonsich transaction. In contrast, Commissioner Naranjo's concerns about the matter were raised in a confidential personnel review closed session hearing as required by the Brown Act. Despite her diligence, the Commission accepted assurances without due scrutiny and approved a pay raise for the general counsel. Commissioner Naranjo's leadership and integrity shine through the smog of misleading allegations against her. Her unwavering dedication and exemplary qualities make her the ideal candidate for the position of Chair. We urge the Board to rescind the unjust censure promptly and recognize Commissioner Naranjo's invaluable contributions.

Notably, National City has not held the position of Chair since 2017. By supporting Commissioner Naranjo, the Board will uphold fair representation traditions and ensure National City rightfully receives its due representation.

We implore each of you to do the right thing, stand beside Commissioner Naranjo, and endorse her bid for the position of Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Luna Reynoso", is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Janice Luna Reynoso
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