

## RESOLUTION 2019-071

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY WATERSHED CONSORTIUM PROGRAM, WHICH WAS CREATED BY SENATE BILL 1367, ADVISORY PANELS, ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH PANEL WHICH INCLUDES THE OTAY RIVER WATERSHED, THE SWEETWATER RIVER WATERSHED, AND THE CALIFORNIA PORTION OF THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED**

**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 I; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is a champion of water quality in and around San Diego Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sweetwater River and the Otay River are watersheds that drain directly into San Diego Bay, and the Tijuana River impacts District Tidelands along the Imperial Beach oceanfront; and

**WHEREAS**, San Diego Bay is home to 300 different species of birds, more than 70 species of fish, an estimated 60 Eastern Pacific green sea turtles, and marine mammals, with an occasional visit by California gray whales; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the bay's natural species live in the estimated 2,000 acres of eelgrass beds, which is 25 percent of the eelgrass in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1367, Chapter 738, Statutes of 2018 (SB 1367) authorizes the San Diego River Conservancy to initiate the San Diego Rivers Watershed Consortium Program (Program) to assist in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural, historical, cultural, educational, and recreational resources located in the Otay River, Sweetwater River and the California portion of the Tijuana River watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program creates an Advisory Panel for each watershed, and identifies stakeholders appointed from specific jurisdictions and agencies to sit on these Advisory Panels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Panels are tasked with developing strategic plans using existing adopted plans within each watershed and identifying funding opportunities for projects that are consistent with those strategic plans; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1367 became law on January 1, 2019, and on April 10, 2019, the San Diego River Conservancy invited the District to appoint a representative to participate in the Advisory Panels for the Otay River, Sweetwater and Tijuana River Watersheds.; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommends appointment of certain District staff members who are qualified subject matter experts to serve (2) year terms as the District representatives on the respective watershed Advisory Panels; and

**WHEREAS**, for Tijuana River Watershed Advisory Panel, staff recommends appointment of Assistant Vice President, Planning and Green Port Jason Giffen; and

**WHEREAS**, for Sweetwater River Watershed Advisory Panel, staff recommends appointment of Director of Environmental Protection Karen Holman; and

**WHEREAS**, for Otay River Watershed Advisory Panel, staff recommends appointment of Director of Environmental Conservation Eileen Maher.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, as follows:

That Jason Giffen, Assistant Vice President, Planning and Green Port, is hereby appointed to the Tijuana River Watershed Advisory Panel for a two (2) year term.

That Karen Holman, Director of Environmental Protection, is hereby appointed to the Sweetwater River Watershed Advisory Panel for a two (2) year term.

That Eileen Maher, Director of Environmental Conservation, is hereby appointed to the Otay River Watershed Advisory Panel for a two (2) year term.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:  
GENERAL COUNSEL

  
By: ~~Assistant~~ Deputy

2019-071

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Bonelli, Castellanos, Malcolm, Merrifield, Moore, Valderrama, and Zucchet

NAYS: None.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.



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Garry J. Bonelli, Chairman  
Board of Port Commissioners

ATTEST:



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Donna Morales  
District Clerk

(Seal)