

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W17a

PMP-6-PSD-20-0001-01 (SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT)

February 10, 2021

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Small, Mary@SCC <Mary.Small@scc.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:19 PM
To: SanDiegoCoast@Coastal <SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Timothy Barrett <tbarrett@portofsandiego.org>; emaher@portofsandiego.org; Sloane, Eryan@SCC <Eryan.Sloane@scc.ca.gov>
Subject: support for Agenda Item #17a

Hello,

I am the Deputy Executive Officer of the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). I am writing this email to express SCC staff's support for Agenda Item #17a (concurring with Commission staff's recommendation for support), an amendment to the Port of San Diego's Master Plan to allow for construction of the San Diego Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline project.

SCC staff have been co-leading the project's planning phases with the Port of San Diego over the past seven years to evaluate living shoreline approaches and develop technical information and design specifications for this project. The project will create approximately 2.5 acres of native oyster habitat that will also serve as a living shoreline to increase shoreline resilience to the impacts of sea level rise and storm events. This project will create a biologically rich native oyster reef in San Diego Bay, a habitat of critical importance given that native oysters were once habitat forming and thriving in the Bay approximately 100 years ago. Now native oysters no longer form beds in San Diego Bay due to a history of dredging, habitat loss, and pollution.

The project will also implement a living shoreline pilot project testing the potential use for native oyster reefs to protect San Diego Bay's shorelines from erosion and flooding associated with tides, waves, storm events, and sea level rise. The project location at the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve is experiencing erosion and habitat loss today. This project will not only test a solution to slow or stop this erosion today, but also demonstrate the potential for slowing similar effects due to increase sea level rise over time.

Living shoreline pilot projects such as the proposed project will fill an important information need for the region and state if we are to succeed in developing nature-based approaches to combat the effects of sea level rise.

Thank you for considering our comments and we would appreciate your approval to facilitate the implementation of this important nature-based, sea level rise adaptation strategy.

Mary Small

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Mary Small  
Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay St. Suite 1000 Oakland, CA 94612

**\*\* During the statewide shelter-in-place order, all Conservancy staff are working from home. Please use email as the primary way to contact us. The Conservancy's response to the COVID-19 virus can be found on our website at [scc.ca.gov]scc.ca.gov. The latest state guidance on the virus can be found [here](#).\*\***

**From:** William Tippets <billtippets@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:58 PM

**To:** SanDiegoCoast@Coastal <SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Gmail <billtippets@gmail.com>; Lesley Nishihira <lnishihi@portofsandiego.org>; Lily Tsukayama <ltsukayama@portofsandiego.org>; Eileen Maher <emaher@portofsandiego.org>; Mayda Winter <swiaprojects@aol.com>

**Subject:** Public Comment on February 2021 Agenda Item Wednesday 17a - San Diego Unified Port District PMP Amendment No. PMP-6-PSD-20-0001-1 (Living Shoreline Project)

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA) and submitting SWIAs support for Agenda Item #17a (concurring with Commission staff's recommendation for support), an amendment to the Port of San Diego's Master Plan to allow for construction of a living shoreline project. We have been involved in preliminary phases to evaluate living shorelines (including artificial reefs) and to develop technical information and specifications for this project, as more fully described below:

SWIA, partnering with the State Coastal Conservancy, Port of San Diego and U.S.F.W.S Coastal Program, will complete studies, designs and engineering that are needed for environmental review and analysis and permit applications for a native oyster restoration project adjacent to the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The project will create approximately 2.5 acres of "living shoreline", presenting a resilient and long-term structural response to address concerns of sea level rise and climate change. "Living shorelines" provide an ecologically stable alternative to the destructive effects of shoreline armoring, which continue to exacerbate the trend of wetlands loss and cause increased erosion on armor-adjacent lands. The primary goal of the restoration is to create a biologically rich native oyster reef in San Diego Bay that functions as part of a complete marsh system, thus restoring an ecological niche that was historically present while also working to protect Bay tidelands and shorelines.

Thank you for considering our comments and we would appreciate your approval of this pro-active coastal shoreline enhancement activity.

Bill Tippets, SWIA Board Secretary

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10