

San Diego Unified Port District Environmental Committee

CHARTER

(Effective May 25, 2006)

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Unified Port District Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) is committed to the protection and enhancement of the environmental condition of San Diego Bay (Bay). To that end, they have created an Environmental Services Department (ESD) and invested it with the responsibility of ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations, as well as advising the BPC on actions that can be taken to improve the condition of the Bay and its tidelands. In 2006, the BPC directed the creation of an Environmental Committee to assist the Port in evaluating and implementing programs to ensure the protection and improvement of San Diego Bay.

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

Advise the BPC on programs, policies and projects that would ensure the protection and improvement of the environmental condition of San Diego Bay and the surrounding tidelands.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen relationships between and among the Port, Port tenants, the scientific community, environmental organizations and regulatory agencies.
2. Identify innovative approaches to resolving Bay environmental issues.
3. Identify opportunities for enhancing natural resources and developing strategies for implementation of programs and/or projects.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

The Port Environmental Committee (Committee) was formed in 2006. The Committee operates according to the guidelines for all Board Advisory Committees as established in BPC Policy No. 018 (2005-78, 10 May 2005) and as articulated in this Charter prepared specifically for the Committee. The purpose of this, and all other Port Committees, is to advise the BPC. This Committee is advisory in nature and has no authority to negotiate for, represent, or commit the Port in any respect.

Membership of the Committee: The membership of all committees is the prerogative of the Chair of the BPC. In January of each calendar year, the incoming Chair establishes the slate of committees for that year and appoints the members of each. At

a minimum, the membership of the Committee will include a balance of resource and regulatory representatives from academia, environmental advocacy groups, government agencies, and Port tenants.

Meeting Attendance: In order for the process to work effectively, full participation of members will be essential. Committee members are asked to commit to attend meetings consistently. If a Committee member is unavailable to attend a meeting, he or she may send a designated alternate. The Committee member should brief the alternate on the status of prior discussions and decisions. If a member is unable to attend for a legitimate reason, they may inform the Port before the meeting, constituting an excused absence. If a member has more than two unexcused absences in a year, the Port may seek a replacement.

Committee Operation: Committee meetings are noticed and open to the public. Summary reports of each Committee meeting will be prepared by Port staff and forwarded to the BPC.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PORT

To assist in achieving the Committee's Purpose and Objectives, the Port will:

- Chair all Committee meetings.
- Prepare and advertise meeting agendas.
- Prepare and present information specified in each agenda.
- Insure compliance with the Brown Act.
- Prepare meeting summaries and forward to the BPC and Committee members.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To assist in achieving the Committee's Purpose and Objectives, Committee members will:

- Commit to the success of the Committee, its Purpose and Objectives, and this Charter.
- Share data and information that will assist each other and the Committee as a whole in meeting its objectives.
- Identify existing and additional resources that would be useful in conducting the Committee's work and assist each other in utilizing or obtaining these resources.
- Identify obstacles in achieving the Committee's Purpose and Objectives, and develop a solution for overcoming them.
- Respect each other's individual roles and contributions.
- Attempt to resolve conflicts in a positive and constructive manner.
- Keep an open mind to new ideas.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

It is intended that the Committee will have four primary responsibilities:

1. Provide input to the Port on new or emerging approaches to Port tidelands and San Diego Bay environmental issues, including: remediation of contamination; enhancement of habitat for native fish and wildlife; increasing native fish and wildlife populations; controlling and eliminating pollutant discharges, and eliminating air emissions.
2. Provide input to the Port on setting priorities for environmental issues.
3. Select and prioritize projects to be recommended to the Board for funding by the Port Environmental Fund.
4. Assist in identifying grants and/or matching funds.

DECISION MAKING

On issues that require the Committee to present an opinion or recommendation, consensus, defined as no opposition, will be sought. If consensus is reached, the opinion or recommendation will be forwarded to the BPC for their action.

If consensus is not reached on a matter, Port staff may choose to take the matter to the BPC for their input or action. If so, staff will advise the BPC on the failure of the Committee to reach consensus and a minority opinion will be presented. As with all matters, Committee members are welcome to attend the BPC meeting and state their support or opposition.

In the course of Committee activities, disagreements will inevitably arise regarding whether a course of action should or should not be taken. Committee members agree to work in a collaborative fashion and to facilitate consensus on these issues whenever possible. Further, Committee members agree to attempt to resolve the disagreement expeditiously and constructively to benefit Committee goals. Individual Committee members cannot be compelled to participate in an action to which they do not agree. Individual Committee members may abstain from participation in any decision.

The Committee has no authority to act on behalf of the BPC or Port Staff. The BPC is the ultimate authority on all Port matters and its decisions are final.