

December 9, 2025

Melody Lasiter
Chair Harmon and Members of the Commission
California Coastal Commission
San Diego Area
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108-4421

SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment - Support for the National City Balanced Plan Port Master Plan Update

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

San Diego Coastkeeper strongly supports the National City Balanced Plan Port Master Plan Amendment. Nearly a decade in development, this collaborative plan meaningfully integrates the needs of diverse stakeholders, particularly the historically underrepresented portside communities on the West side of National City. By balancing public access, maritime uses, and commercial recreation, the plan advances environmental justice and comes before you with staff recommendation of approval.

The project constitutes a dramatic contribution to the public realm both physically in the form of an expanded park and in terms of increased public access. The plan also includes long awaited low cost overnight accommodations on the Port of San Diego tidelands. Public outreach has been an integral component of the process and has resulted in some important key features including:

- Expansion of Pepper Park by 2.5 acres or nearly 50 percent (from 5.19 acres to 7.69 acres).
- Realignment of Marina Way, which will serve as the buffer area between commercial recreation and maritime uses.
- East-west and north-south public access corridors, with pedestrian, bicycle, and visual access.
- Better configured/more contiguous commercial recreation and maritime uses.



This project directly advances San Diego Coastkeeper's mission to protect and restore the region's waterways and coastline, and the ecosystems and biodiversity they support. The expanded park and enhanced public access corridors will support environmental justice and improve community connections to San Diego Bay while the buffer zones and better-configured land uses will help minimize impacts to sensitive coastal waters and habitats.

Therefore, we urge the Commission to support the plan and create a lasting legacy for National City and the San Diego region. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McDonough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick McDonough
Senior Attorney
San Diego Coastkeeper