



January 28, 2022

Hassan Ikhata
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: San Diego Unified Port District (Port) Endangered Avian Nesting Site Stewardship at the D Street Fill Grant Application

Dear Mr Ikhata:

The Port of San Diego is pleased to submit the Endangered Avian Nesting Site Stewardship at the D Street Fill Application to the Transnet Environmental Mitigation Grant Program.

The Project will assist in management and recovery of two federal and state-listed species, the California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*) and western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*), which occur at the D Street Fill during the avian breeding season. The site is jointly managed by the Port of San Diego (Port) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as a least tern nesting colony and snowy plover critical habitat. The project goal is to prepare the site for the 2023 and 2024 nesting seasons by performing site grading, debris removal, vegetation control, invasive plant management, avian monitoring, and predator management to maintain the site as suitable breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat.

The Port will provide in-kind match support in the form of staff time, managing contractors to conduct predator control services, avian monitoring, data collection, and reporting. The Port will also organize at least one volunteer event with The Living Coast Discovery Center, a CBO Community Network partner, to assist in site preparation and provide environmental education. This commitment is described in our draft resolution attached in the application. Should the Port be selected for funding, staff will take the proposed award to the Board of Port Commissioners pursuant to Board Policy 110.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at btorres@portofsandiego.org or 619-686-6426 if you have any questions regarding this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Torres".

Barbarah Torres
Grants Coordinator
San Diego Unified Port District