



Where Wonder Comes Naturally!

January 25, 2022

Ms. Courtney Pesce
Regional Planner II
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Letter of Support for the Port of San Diego's SANDAG Transnet EMP Grant

Dear Ms. Pesce,

The Living Coast Discovery Center supports the Port of San Diego's endangered species management program at the D Street Fill, in collaboration with the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), as proposed in their Threat Reduction Stewardship Grant Application to the San Diego Association of Governments.

The Living Coast is a 501(c)(3) educational zoo and aquarium located within the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the NWR. Our mission is to inspire the community to connect with and care for our coastal environment. The Living Coast and the Port of San Diego have a long history of collaboration on several projects, including endangered species propagation, trash and marine debris cleanups, and invasive species removal efforts. Most notably, the Living Coast and the Port of San Diego co-hosted an invasive sea lavender removal event in 2019 where student volunteers from the Living Coast removed invasive sea lavender at the D Street Fill and learned about endangered least terns from NWR and Port staff.

The Living Coast supports the Port of San Diego's Threat Reduction Stewardship Grant Application and its proposed education outreach opportunities. Should you have any questions, please contact Ben Vallejos, Executive Director, at 619-409-5911 or via email at Ben@thelivingcoast.org.

Sincerely,

Ben Vallejos