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**INFORMATIONAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION TO PREVIEW THE
INTERACTIVE WEB MAPPING APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY THE
SAN DIEGO OCEAN PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

INTRODUCTION:

The San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership (SDOPP) is a collaborative pilot project between the California State Lands Commission (Commission) and the Port of San Diego (Port), centered on understanding and balancing Public Trust ocean uses including commerce, navigation, recreation, fisheries, and environmental stewardship. This is a comprehensive, stakeholder-driven process that considers the dynamic and interconnected relationship between the ocean environment and human activity. During the preliminary assessment, Commission and Port staffs learned from ocean users and other managers to understand their interests and issue areas and the ocean space itself while focusing on processes that could resolve existing and potential future conflicts. This information may help to improve the process for the Commission and Port to evaluate lease applications in the ocean space and protect the state's Public Trust resources.

Commission and Port staffs gathered information for the assessment phase of the pilot through stakeholder engagement and data collection. The stakeholder input and preliminary data collected will culminate in the Preliminary Assessment Report (a [draft](#) of which is currently available for public comment), and a Web Mapping Application.

This informational staff report and presentation will preview the Web Mapping Application, which is a compilation of publicly available, coastal and marine-related data in a single, user-friendly, web-based platform where these data can be visualized together.

The Web Mapping Application makes the best available science and data related to the ocean space offshore San Diego County easily accessible for all ocean users, including the public, the Commission's sister resource management agencies, and the Partners (the Commission and Port). The centralization of this information into a single user-friendly, interactive, free application is intended to aid science-guided and informed decision making for the management and

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protection of Public Trust resources, uses, and values. The Web Mapping Application is organized by Public Trust use and will help users better understand the broad variety of Public Trust resources, uses, and values. Using the Application will increase awareness of current and emerging ocean uses and help advance the understanding of the dynamics and relationships between uses. An informed public and Commission are essential for future public engagement around ocean planning and will ensure management and leasing decisions are transparent and made in consideration of the most comprehensive spectrum of information possible.

BACKGROUND:

The SDOPP is a unique partnership between the Commission and the Port because both Partners are aligned in their management responsibilities under the Public Trust Doctrine. Entrusted to manage and balance commerce, navigation, fisheries, recreation, and environmental stewardship on state tidelands and submerged lands for the people of the State of California, the Partners have built a strong working relationship many years prior to the formation of the SDOPP.

The Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over all ungranted tidelands and submerged lands and the beds of navigable lakes, rivers, and streams owned by the State (Public Resources Code section 6301, et seq.). The Commission manages approximately 4 million acres of these sovereign lands in trust for the benefit of the statewide public subject to the common law Public Trust Doctrine, including those tidelands and submerged lands that extend from the shoreline to 3 nautical miles offshore along California's coastline.

The Port was created in 1962 to manage and hold in trust certain tidelands and submerged lands within San Diego Bay. The Port is the State's trustee of Public Trust lands within San Diego Bay granted to it by the Legislature under Chapter 67, Statutes of 1962, First Extraordinary Session, and as amended. When the Port's statutory grant took effect, lands within the Bay that had been previously granted to the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Coronado, and National City were transferred to the Port. The Port is an economic engine and environmental steward of San Diego Bay and the surrounding tidelands and provides community and public safety services. The Port does not receive any tax revenue, yet it manages a diverse portfolio to generate revenues that support vital public services and amenities.

On October 13, 2016, the Commission authorized a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Port to engage in a unique ocean planning partnership for State-owned tidelands and submerged lands located in the Pacific Ocean offshore San Diego County, ([Item 64, October 13, 2016](#)). Through this partnership, the

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Commission and Port are identifying current and emerging uses in the ocean space offshore San Diego County and assessing the relationships among them. The pilot represents the Commission's and the Port's commitment to balancing Public Trust uses including commerce, navigation, recreation, fishing, and environmental stewardship.

The pilot project is being developed in a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, and transparent way. It is not a process to create zoning or new regulatory measures in the ocean space. Rather, it has the potential to reduce conflict, and possibly standardize a framework for early engagement and conflict resolution between ocean users by fostering meaningful relationships and making robust information broadly available and accessible. The pilot project intends to maximize economic, environmental, and societal co-benefits in a manner that is balanced and holistic.

The Web Mapping Application was developed by Partnership staff and hosts authoritative datasets accompanied by robust metadata reports detailing the data source, intended purpose of each dataset, and limitations and constraints of these data. This staff report and presentation provides an overview of the data collection process, an introduction to the Web Mapping Application, and display some of its features and functions. The Port's Board of Commissioners received a similar update on the Web Mapping Application at their meeting in San Diego on October 9, 2018.

WEB MAPPING APPLICATION:

The Web Mapping Application will be a public-facing, interactive site where ocean users and decision-makers alike can explore and visualize publicly available data relevant to the coast and ocean offshore San Diego County. Commission staff has developed this geographic information system (GIS) web-based platform that displays the many layers of data through an interactive and comprehensive map. Users of the Web Mapping Application may select different layers, overlay them, and use a variety of features and tools to assess and analyze how ocean resources and uses interact with one another.

The intent of the Web Mapping Application is to make ocean and marine-related information available and accessible to everyone. These data, which can be layered and viewed simultaneously, visualize current uses in the ocean and oceanographic conditions, and can help users understand where there may be potential to enhance a current use, avoid user and management conflicts, and identify potentially suitable areas for new projects or emerging uses. In addition, the visualization tool will help inform management decisions, such as the Commission's process for considering lease applications in the ocean space. Users of the Web Mapping Application may select and display data layers

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individually or together, search geographic locations and data layers, generate reports on data and geographic locations, and explore various other functions to better understand the dynamic ocean environment.

The Web Mapping Application will require continued maintenance as additional data become available and updates to its functionality and software are implemented. Data collection and compilation, review, and refinement will be necessary and ongoing throughout the San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership to keep the Web Mapping Application up-to-date.

DATA COLLECTION:

The ocean is a dynamic, complex environment that supports diverse natural resources, ecological functions, and human uses and activities that often intersect, overlap, and interact with one another. Scientific, social, and economic research is frequently conducted by local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions to better understand the ocean. These data are often available to the public but are siloed in various agency and organization websites and data portals.

The goal of the data collection effort is to compile and review reliable and publicly available data into the Web Mapping Application. Commission and Port staffs launched the data collection effort by searching for and downloading publicly available spatial data sourced from public agency and organization websites, data portals, and stakeholders. Information on each dataset and its source, its intended purpose, limitations, constraints, and considerations will also be housed on the Web Mapping Application.

Data in the ocean space can illustrate a broad array of information, from scientific measurements of oceanographic conditions, to vessel density heat maps, to whale migration routes and locations of kelp and eelgrass habitats. The datasets compiled during this effort aligned with the Public Trust uses including commerce, navigation, recreation, fisheries, and environmental stewardship. Examples of data compiled include:

- **Commerce:** Alternative and renewable energy potential, oil and gas resources, submarine cables and pipelines.
- **Navigation:** Military training and testing areas, marine vessel traffic, navigational aids and charts, wrecks and obstructions, and marinas.
- **Fisheries:** Commercial and recreational fishing blocks, and fishing piers and jetties.
- **Recreation:** Public access locations, state parks, recreational coastal and in-water use, artificial reefs, and SCUBA dive sites.

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- **Environmental Stewardship:** Environmental factors (e.g. sea surface temperature), marine species and habitats, storm water outfalls, sediment disposal sites, marine protected areas, and marine managed areas (e.g. essential fish habitat).

The stakeholder engagement process has also helped guide staff toward data resources, highlight data needs, and shed light on potential gaps in data.

NEXT STEPS:

The SDOPP will continue to refine and process data for the Web Mapping Application to prepare it for a public release in early 2019. The Commission and Port will create a user guide to accompany the Application, and beta-test it with stakeholders to gain feedback for ways to improve the user experience before releasing it for public use. Once released, the Commission will continue to maintain the Application and update it periodically with new information and data as it becomes available.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. This action is consistent with Strategy 1.2 of the Commission's Strategic Plan, to provide that the current and future management of ungranted sovereign lands and resources and granted lands, including through strategic partnerships with trustee ports and harbor districts, is consistent with evolving Public Trust principles and values. The Commission recognizes that strong partnerships are the key to innovative and responsible land and resource management.
2. This action is also consistent with Strategy 4.2, to extend Geographic Information Systems (GIS) content and capabilities to be an integrated decision-making tool for the Commission's management of lands and resources and a valued visualization and communication mechanism for the public. The Commission strives to use the most current technological resources to inform decision-making and broaden public awareness and engagement.
3. The development of this Web Mapping Application is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.