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October 6, 2006

Chair Spane and Board of Port Commissioners
San Diego Unified Port District
POB 120488
San Diego, CA 92101-1128

Dear Chair Spane and Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to register this organization's strong opposition to the recurring notion of locating a football stadium on Port District property. Aside from the fact that locating a stadium on Tidelands violates the Tidelands Trust, we believe that the mere discussion of the subject contradicts the Port District's stated goals, and jeopardizes the Port's Maritime business operations.

Taking 52 acres of the National City Marine Terminal for the development of a sports stadium poses a significant risk to millions of dollars that the SDUPD has invested in the 24th Street Marine Terminal.

Over two years ago, the Port District concluded that maritime businesses were critical to the regional economy as they provide tens of thousands of high paying jobs. A little over two and a half years ago, the Port District's actions left no doubt about their commitment to preserving those jobs and the marine terminal operations that this region has fought so hard to capture. By a strong majority, this board unequivocally stated that locating a stadium on Marine Terminal property is incompatible with Marine Terminal businesses and operations. For the Port District to move any further down the road exploring the possibility of a sports stadium on the subject 52 acres is to initiate the demise of the 24th Street Marine Terminal

Every stadium built in this country in the last 50 years has been applauded for helping spur retail and commercial development immediately surrounding the stadium. Developing a stadium on the 24th Ave Marine Terminal property is essentially rezoning that land for retail and

Chair Spans and Board of Port Commissioners

October 6, 2006

Page 2

commercial use, which would eventually bring an end to maritime business that relies on San Diego's deep water berth at National City.

We ask the board to continue its commitment to maintaining the region's maritime businesses and jobs. We ask that you establish, once and for all, that San Diego's working waterfront is a non-negotiable resource that will be preserved. It is critical that this Board send a very clear message of your intent to preserve the Port's maritime resources, particularly when challenged by non-bayfront dependant development.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

George Palermo
Chair

Cc: SDPTA Board of Directors
Mr. Bruce Hollingsworth, President, SDUPD