

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: 11/16/2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
ADOPTING COUNTYWIDE BIODIVERSITY VISION AND GOALS

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations defines biodiversity as the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution and human influence. It forms a web of life of which we are a part and upon which we depend; and;

**WHEREAS**, our planet's biodiversity is in a state of crisis because species are becoming extinct at an alarming rate, with humans and climate change being the top drivers of extinction, and;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a Nature Based Solutions Executive Order N-82-20, which elevated the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change, advancing biodiversity conservation as a top priority; and;

**WHEREAS**, San Francisco's Commission on the Environment adopted citywide biodiversity goals in Resolution 2011-05-COE, becoming one of California's first jurisdictions to model significant commitments to biodiversity; and;

**WHEREAS**, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity is an important part of efforts to build resilience to the impacts of climate change in the San Diego region and in California as a whole; and;

**WHEREAS**, San Diego is one of the most biologically diverse counties in the contiguous United States; it supports thousands of native plant and animal species, and shelters 200 imperiled species; and;

**WHEREAS**, the threat of more frequent and uncontrollable wildfires, and habitat fragmentation are threatening our native animal and plant species; and;

**WHEREAS**, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, Engelmann oak woodlands, native grasslands, tidal wetlands, eelgrass beds, conifer forests and vernal pools are at stake; habitats for several endangered species are threatened, such as those for the burrowing owl, California gnatcatcher, arroyo southwestern toad, Stephens' kangaroo rat, San Diego fairy shrimp, quino checkerspot butterfly, Ridgway's rail; and;

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Diego has championed Multiple Species Conservation Programs, a Native Plant Landscaping Policy, and Enterprise-wide Sustainability Initiatives; and;

**WHEREAS**, the County, in collaboration with communities, jurisdictions, public agencies, and non-profit organizations, are maintaining and restoring local biodiversity; connecting San

Diegans to nature within the region; actively bringing nature into the built environment; and collectively have united around a core vision for conservation and stewardship of San Diego's natural heritage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the following countywide biodiversity vision and goals.

## VISION

All San Diego residents and visitors are able to connect with our local biodiversity and rich ecosystems daily and participate in ecological stewardship of the County's natural heritage. San Diego County's biodiversity is maintained and conserved in a way that ensures that its local communities remain climate resilient and natural space is integrated within the built environment.

## GOALS

1. **Biologically Rich Ecosystems:** Protect, maintain, and restore robust and interconnected terrestrial and marine ecosystems, including native habitats, natural areas, open spaces, coniferous forests, watersheds, and wetlands, and mitigate climate change impacts to plant and animal species.
2. **Equitable Access to Natural Spaces:** Connect all residents, workers, and visitors with nature every day through accessible green space, parks, and natural habitats as appropriate.
3. **Community and Ecological Stewardship:** Empower community partnerships that promote, cultivate, and restore nature in every neighborhood.
4. **Ecological Planning and Design:** Incorporate sustainable, purposeful greening into site design and building construction within future community and open space development, prioritizing landscaping that supports native species.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Inga B. Lintvedt, Senior Deputy County Counsel