

Let Port Workers Work – An Open Letter to Our Community from the Port of San Diego



PORT OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS
Chairman of the Board

The Port of San Diego is made up of working people with families who serve the public each day by helping to bring in goods that are important to the people of the San Diego region. They are the 99 percent, the gardeners, the maintenance workers, the dock workers, the Harbor Police officers, the office workers, the environmental workers – all working to improve the quality of life in San Diego Bay and on its surrounding lands.

It is these people who would be hurt by a blockade of our Port. They are the ones who are working to pay mortgages, to put their kids through school, to put food on the family dinner table.

The Port of San Diego welcomes and respects the right of every American to protest. We realize that many citizens are angry about unemployment, home foreclosures, and unscrupulous actions in the nation's financial industry – the actions that ignited the Occupy Wall Street movement. Our workers had nothing to do with any of that.

While we respect the rights of protesters, we ask that they conduct themselves in a way that is peaceful and respectful of the working people of our port.

Those workers not only help in the movement of vital goods and supplies but, along with our tenants, help generate money to pay for the maintenance of 17 Port of San Diego parks in our five member cities of Chula Vista, National City, Coronado, Imperial Beach and San Diego. That money also pays for law enforcement on our bay and surrounding land, for environmental programs that clean San Diego Bay and provide wildlife habitat, for boat launch ramps and pier maintenance and for many other public amenities that all of us can enjoy.

The Port of San Diego also produces jobs. Our maritime operation provides 5,000 jobs to the region, with an average wage of \$59,000 – about \$10,000 more than the national average. The Port's maritime operation is an anchor of the industrial working waterfront, which has an economic impact of \$7.6 billion and provides 42,000 jobs to the region. In the coming year, we are seeking new trading partners that would help us to create more good-paying jobs at our cargo terminals and throughout our region.

We share with the protesters a belief in the First Amendment right to free speech, and we will do all that we can to help them to exercise that right in a safe manner.

The Port of San Diego, and its workers, are part of the solution – not the problem.

So let our port workers work. They work for all of us and our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Peters".

Scott H. Peters
Chairman,
Board of Port Commissioners



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workingwaterfrontgroup.org