

For Immediate Release

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Mark Kersey Sworn-In as Fifth District Councilman

Spells out specific plan for addressing key issues of economic development, cross-border relations, infrastructure, and water independence

SAN DIEGO, California, December 3 – At a meeting of the San Diego City Council held at Balboa Park this morning, Mark Kersey was sworn-in for his first term as Fifth District Councilman. In his remarks, Councilman Kersey highlighted the major policy issues he plans to tackle in the coming months, including:

- **Economic Development** and the need for a long-term strategy to move San Diego's economy forward. This would include implementing smart regulations, cutting the permitting time for small businesses, and crafting policies that help local companies export their products abroad.
- **Cross-Border** opportunities, as a means to create jobs throughout the region. Councilman Kersey explored this potential during a recent trip to Mexico, where he met with business leaders.
- **Infrastructure** and the City's \$900 million backlog of maintenance projects. Councilman Kersey called for a comprehensive infrastructure plan that lays out needed projects, schedules for completion, and funding sources, in a format that is readable and accessible to the public. Such a plan will cut down on the time it takes for a project to go from concept to completion and allow the City to prioritize projects based on neighborhood needs and community input.
- **Water** supply from reliable, long-term sources. Councilman Kersey stated that desalination, indirect potable reuse and purple pipe recycled water must all be options on the table, in order for the region to take real steps toward water independence.

Councilman Kersey anticipated a cooperative working relationship among councilmembers, regardless of political affiliation, stating, "I think this new City Council will impress people with our ability to get along, get things done and get our City moving."

Prior to assuming office, Councilman Kersey conducted meetings with residents, community groups, trade organizations, labor leaders and owners of businesses large and small, and he reported today that they expect City leaders to work together.

During his swearing-in, Councilman Kersey was joined by his mother, who traveled from her home in Ohio for the occasion, and his girlfriend Allie.