



CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS and NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Environmental Sampling by BNSF Railway at National City Marine Terminal
Location: Generally north of West 32nd Street, south of the National Distribution Center, east of Tidelands Avenue, and west of Marina Way
Parcel No.: 025-010
Project No.: 2026-116
Applicant: Jobi Cherian, Manager of Environmental Remediation, BNSF Railway Company, 2500 Lou Menk Drive, Forth Worth, TX, 76131, (817) 352-2939
Date Approved: 9/23/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve soil sampling by BNSF Railway (Applicant) in the city of National City, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve soil sampling at three locations, up to five (5) feet, using a hand auger on the National City Marine Terminal. Applicant would prepare a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Work Plan for submittal to the District prior to any sampling activities. The proposed work is anticipated to occur in late 2026 and would take approximately one (1) day to complete, with re-sampling as needed.

Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips and would require limited use of equipment. Therefore, impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic are not anticipated to occur. Furthermore, the Applicant/Grantee/Licensee/Permittee/Tenant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding construction demolition debris, hazards and hazardous materials, and stormwater.

The following categorical determinations are based on the project submittal and all project information known to the District as of the date of this determination.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.f: Information Collection

3.f. Information Collection: Includes basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which has not yet been approved, adopted or funded.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines and the Section(s) of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above because it is for the purpose of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource . The District has determined none of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062, a 35-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply from the date a Notice of Exemption is posted with the San Diego County Clerk, or a 180-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply if no Notice of Exemption is filed.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY

Planning District: 5 - National City Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 15)

Land Use Designation: Marine Terminal

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve soil sampling activities on a marine terminal consistent with the existing certified Land Use designation(s). The proposed project would not change the use of the site nor would it interrupt or expand the existing conforming uses of the site.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exclusion: Section 8.e: Information Collection

8.e. Information Collection Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Section(s) of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above because it would not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

Pursuant to California Coastal Act Section 30717, there is a 10-working-day period to appeal this "Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion" to the California Coastal Commission.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

The proposed project complies with Section 87.(a)(2) of the Port Act, which allows for all visitor-serving commercial and industrial uses and purposes, and the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of commercial and industrial buildings, plants, and facilities . The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed project is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

SCOTT CHADWICK
President/CEO

Determination by:
Luis Duran
Senior Planner
Development Services

Signature: Luis Duran
Date: 9/23/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 9/23/2026