

San Diego Unified Port District
CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and
NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Right of Entry to Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Location(s): San Diego, Coronado, Chula Vista, and National City, California
Parcel No.(s): 019-018,028-001, 030-003, 030,000, 056-005
Project No.: 2018-144
Applicant: Ashley Parks, 3535 Harbor Boulevard, Costa Mesa, Ca 92626
Date: August 6, 2018

Project Description

The proposed project is a Right of Entry to Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and involves sampling activities at four submerged tidelands locations to further analyze pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in San Diego Bay. Sampling activities would consist of biota sampling, sediment sampling, water column sampling, and the deployment of passive samplers. Sampling activities would occur in the fall of 2018.

Biota sampling for tissue analysis would include collections of fish and plankton. Tissue analyses would be performed on a total of up to 10 samples per species per location. Species for collection would include: Black Perch (*Embiotoca jacksoni*), Northern Anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Shiner Perch (*Cymatogaster aggregate*), Slough Anchovy (*Anchoa delicatissima*), Spotted Sand Bass (*Paralabrax maculatofasciatus*), Topsmelt (*Atherinops affinis*), and Zooplankton. Fish Species would be collected by trawling and hook and line techniques. Biota sampling activities would take approximately three days to complete and would require one boat with approximately four staff.

Sediment sampling would be collected using a ponar grab sampler. In addition, passive samplers would be deployed at each location for approximately 30 days. The benefits of using passive sampling technology include measurement of individual congener concentrations at low detection limits, as well as a time-weighted average concentration. Once the passive samplers are received, the samples would be compared to the sediment samples taken with the ponar grab sampler.

Mid-column water samples would be collected twice; ideally within one week of the deployment of the passive sampling devices, and within a one-week timeframe of passive sampling device recovery. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, and pH water column profiles would be characterized using handheld meter. The following categorical determinations are based on the project submittal, work plan, and all project information known to the District as of the date of this determination.

CEQA DETERMINATION

Based upon the above description, the project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines) 15306 (Information Collection) and/or Section 3.f of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* because the project involves sampling activities to analyze pesticides and PCBs in San Diego Bay. Section 3.f, of the District's CEQA Guidelines is as follows:

- 3.f Information Collection (SG § 15306) (Class 6): 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 Categorical Exemptions listed above are appropriate for the proposed project because the project involves sampling activities to analyze pesticides and PCBs in San Diego Bay that would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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. The District has further determined none of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2).

The proposed project complies with Section 87 of the Port Act, which allows for the establishment, improvement, and conduct of a harbor, and for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operations of wharves, docks, piers, slips, quays, and all other works, buildings, facilities, utilities, structures, and appliances incidental, necessary, or convenient, for the promotion and accommodation of commerce and navigation. 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.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

PORT MASTER PLAN

The proposed project is located in Planning District 1, Shelter Island/La Playa, which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 4, Planning District 6, Coronado Bayfront, which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 17, Planning District 5, which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 15, Planning District 7, Chula Vista Bayfront, which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 19. The Port Master Plan water use designations within the limits of the project are Estuary, Open Bay, Ship Navigation Corridor, and Specialized Berthing. The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because the project involves sampling activities to analyze pesticides and PCBs in San Diego Bay consistent with the existing certified water use designations. The project would not change the uses of the sites nor would it interrupt or expand the existing conforming uses of the sites.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

The above project involves sampling activities to analyze pesticides and PCBs in San Diego Bay that would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This project is consistent with the existing certified water use designations and is Categorically Excluded under Section 8.e of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations*, as follows:

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.

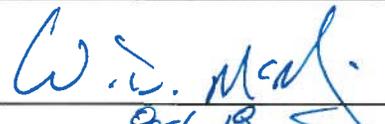
Pursuant to California Coastal Act Section 30717, there is a 10 day working period to appeal this "Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion" to the California Coastal Commission.

RANDA CONIGLIO
President/CEO

Determination by:
Ashley Wright
Senior Planner
Planning Department

Signature: 
Date: 8-2-18

Deputy General Counsel

Signature: 
Date: 8-1-18