

Notice of Exemption
Appendix E

CEQA Guidelines

To: ■ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: (Public Agency)
San Diego Unified Port District
Planning & Green Port
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

■ *San Diego County Recorder/County Clerk*
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
San Diego, CA 92101-2480

FILED

Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr. Recorder County Clerk

JUL 25 2019

Project Title: EConcrete: Interlocking Tidal Pool System
Project Location – Specific: Harbor Island, San Diego, CA 92101
Project location – City: San Diego
Project Location – County: San Diego

BY C. TERAN
DEPUTY

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project is a three-year pilot project that would replace portions of existing rip-rap at three installation sites on Harbor Island with biologically-enhanced concrete units interlocking into a tidal pool system (tidal pool system). The installation sites would include Harbor Island Park, Spanish Landing Park East, and the western tip of Harbor Island. The tidal pool systems are designed to create water retaining elements which are absent in most urban waterfronts. The tide pools would provide shoreline stabilization while simultaneously creating a well-defined local ecosystem that mimics natural rock pools typical to rocky coasts, as well as increase local biodiversity and biological productivity. Each site would consist of the replacement of approximately 15 feet wide by 42 feet long area of rip-rap, for a total square footage of 630 square feet per site. A five-foot buffer in each direction of the installation site, for total project area of 3,900 square feet spread amongst the three installation sites. Each installation site is positioned to be intermittently submerged by the tide and therefore, will not encroach into public park space.

The production of the precast tidal pool units would be completed off-site at a local concrete manufacturer. Installation of the tidal pool systems would occur over a three-week period (one week for each installation site) and work would occur five days per week and would require approximately 7 construction workers. Staging locations would be located within parking lots upland adjacent to each installation site and would be marked off with yellow tape and construction cones. Approximately 15 spaces would be temporarily occupied during construction staging; this includes spaces for construction worker parking and tidal pool system layout.

The existing revetment stones within the footprint of the three installation sites would be removed by excavator to create a smooth and stable surface for the foundation and support of the tidal pool system. The existing revetment stones would be carried offsite via dump truck to an approximately 6,200 square-foot fenced area that would be used as a storage area for the removed rip-rap located on east Harbor Island, south of the Harbor Police Administrative Building. Upon removal of the existing rip-rap, the tidal pool systems would be placed at each site with the use of a lifting crane and would ultimately be kept in place in part due to the heavy weight of each unit (approximately 3,500 pounds), as the units greatly outweigh the surrounding revetment stones that have remained stable since the revetment's original installation. Additionally, the tide pool system is designed in a way that makes each unit interlocking, which further contributes to stability. It is expected that the delivery of the units would require a total of six separate deliveries (2 for each site). Ecological and structural stability monitoring would take place every six months

post deployment for two years in order to evaluate the viability of the tidal pool systems as ecological armoring replacement to traditional rip-rap. If monitoring efforts show the tidal pool system to be a viable replacement to traditional rip-rap, the system may remain for their design life, which is at a minimum 50 years. In the event that monitoring efforts conclude that the tidal pool system has not been successful, the units would be removed by the Applicant and replaced with the preexisting revetment stones that were stored on east Harbor Island during the project duration. Removal and installation will be conducted in a similar method to the initial tidal pool system installation.

The project would require a Tideland Use and Occupancy Permit (TUOP) to EConcrete Inc. for the use of approximately 3,900 square feet of tidelands area located at the water's edge at three locations on Harbor Island and 6,200 square-feet of fenced area located on east Harbor Island, south of the Harbor Police Administrative Building. It is anticipated that the TUOP would have a total term of three years, commencing in summer 2019. The TUOP may be terminated by the Executive Director of the Port District or their duly authorized representative, or Tenant as a matter of right and without cause at any time upon the giving of thirty days' notice in writing to other party of such termination. A "Blue Economy Agreement" by and between the District and EConcrete Inc. is also proposed, and other similar agreements may also be required.

The pilot project requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pre-certified Nationwide Permit #5 Scientific Measurement Devices and Nationwide Permit #27 Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities, and a Regional Water Quality Control Board nationwide pre-certified permit notification #5 and #27 Notice of Intent as part of the entitlement process, which would be obtained prior to the proposed project start date. Furthermore, the applicant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regulating construction demolition debris, noise, and stormwater. No eelgrass resources are known to occur within the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: *San Diego Unified Port District (SDUPD)*

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Philippe Leblanc, Aquaculture & Blue Tech, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 686-6516

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption

Signature: *Maggie Weber* **Date:** 7-24-19 **Title:** Senior Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

San Diego County on JUL 25 2019

Posted JUL 25 2019 Removed _____

Returned to agency on _____

Deputy *C. Teran*

C. TERAN