CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and
NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: San Diego Multi-Cultural Festival at Centre City Embarcadero
Location: Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Ln, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: 018-000
Project No.: 2020-028
Applicant: San Diego Alpha Foundation, 9921 Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129
Date Approved: March 3, 2020

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the San Diego Multi-Cultural Festival, which would take place at Ruocco Park in the City of San Diego. The District will provide sponsorship in the form of District funding and services for the event, a multi-cultural festival. The event will feature the following activities: traditional heritage music and dancing, multi-cultural entertainment on a main stage, global and ethnic markets, local and regional vendors, children’s area and activities, and multi-cultural story tellers. The event has an anticipated attendance of approximately 2,000 people and public parking would be available at Ruocco Park and in the nearby vicinity.

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 Exemptions: SG §15304, Class 4/Section 3.d: Minor Alternations to Land; and SG §15323 (Class 23): Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings

3.d. Minor Alterations to Land (SG §15304) (Class 4): Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, but not limited to:

(6) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

AND/OR

Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (SG §15323) (Class 23): Consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. For the purposes of this section, “past history” shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. Facilities included within this exemption include, but are not limited to, racetracks, stadiums, convention centers, auditoriums, amphitheaters, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines and the Sections of the District’s Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of a temporary multi-cultural festival that would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, would not have any permanent effects on the environment, and would consist of the normal operation of existing facilities for public gatherings. 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.

D2#: 1625822
CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY

Planning District: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)

Land Use Designations: Park/Plaza; and Promenade

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it is a temporary event that would draw the public to San Diego Bay thereby encouraging recreational opportunities and promoting public access along the waterfront consistent with the existing certified land use designations.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exclusion: Section 8.d: Minor Alternations to Land

8.d. Minor Alterations to Land: Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, including but not limited to:

(5) Minor temporary uses of land and water having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including festivals, boating activities, parades, and running or bicycling events.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Section of the District's Coastal Development Permit Regulations as identified above. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of a temporary multi-cultural festival, would involve minor temporary use of land, and would have no permanent effect on the environment.

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)(5) of the Port Act, which allows for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operation of public buildings, public assembly and meeting places, convention centers, parks, playgrounds, bathhouses and bathing facilities, recreation and fishing piers, public recreation facilities, including, but not limited to, public golf courses, and for all works, buildings, facilities, utilities, structures, and appliances incidental, necessary, or convenient for the promotion and accommodation of any of those uses. 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.

RANDA CONIGLIO
President/CEO

Determination by:
Michael Paul
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Deputy General Counsel

Signature:
Date:

[Signatures and dates]