

**CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS**

Office of the District Clerk

**Project:** Agreement With Wood Environment Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. for an Amount Not To Exceed \$1,525,000, for a Period of Five (5) Years, from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027, to Implement The Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP)

**Location:** Baywide

**Parcel No.:** Various - Baywide

**Project No.:** 2022-020

**Applicant:** Kelly Tait, Program Manager, Planning and Environment Environmental Protection San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA, 619.686.6372

**Date Approved:** April 12, 2022

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will include the selection, and authorization of, an agreement with Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$1,525,000, for a period of five (5) years, between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2027, to implement the Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP), to evaluate the status and trends of water, sediments, and aquatic life in the region's harbors, pursuant to Section 13225 of the California Water Code.

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: SG §15306, Class 6/Section 3.f: Information Collection

## 3.a. 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 a s 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 of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA*, as identified above. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it provides valuable data to evaluate the status and trends in water and sediments in the San Diego Bay via measurements in chemistry, toxicity, benthic community analyses, and biodiversity. The District, acting as the lead agency, as provided for within the latest 2018, RHMP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District, County of San Diego, and relevant cities, is seeking a qualified service provider to: 1) conduct monitoring, analyses, and reporting of results; and 2) provide scientific counsel for the RHMP. Therefore, the project involves data and information collection that will present no impact, to very limited effect, on the environment. Further, the project will not substantially affect the environment and species within the San Diego Bay. The District has determined that 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 April 13, 2022, the date a Notice of Exemption was posted with the San Diego County Clerk.

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT*****PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY***

Planning Districts: Various

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve Regional Harbor Monitoring Program and to evaluate the status and trends of water, sediments, and aquatic life in the region's harbors, pursuant to section 13225 of the California Water Code. This activity is consistent with the existing certified Water use designations. The proposed project would not change the use of the San Diego Bay, nor would it interrupt or expand any existing conforming uses of the Bay.

**CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION**

Categorical Exclusion: Section 8.e: Information Collection

8.e: 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.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to Section 8.e of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations*. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it provides valuable data to evaluate the status and trends in water and sediments, as well as aquatic species, in the San Diego Bay via measurements in chemistry, toxicity, benthic community analyses, and biodiversity. The project's goals include: 1) conducting monitoring, analyses, and reporting of results; and 2) providing scientific counsel for the RHMP. Therefore, the project involves data and information collection that will present no impact, to very limited effect, on the environment.

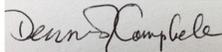
Pursuant to California Coastal Act Section 30717, there is a 10-working-day period to appeal this "Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion" to the California Coastal Commission.

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE**

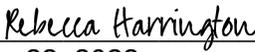
The proposed project complies with Section 87.(a)(7) of the Port Act, which allows the District to undertake the establishment and maintenance of those lands for open space, ecological preservation, and habitat restoration, for public trust purposes. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed project is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

Joe Stuyvesant  
President/CEO

Determination by:  
Dennis Campbell  
Senior Planner  
Planning Department

Signature:   
Date: May 2, 2022

Deputy General Counsel

Signature:   
Date: Apr 22, 2022