



**CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS  
and  
NOTICE OF APPROVAL**

Project: City of National City Memorial Day Picnic in the Park and Music Festival  
Location: Pepper Park, 3299 Tidelands Avenue, National City, CA 91950; Aquatic Center at National City, 3300 Pepper Park Place, National City, CA 91950  
Parcel No.: Various  
Project No.: 2022-029  
Applicant: Juanita Castaneda, Recreational Supervisor, City of National City, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950  
Date Approved: May 9, 2022

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project is the City of National City Memorial Day Picnic in the Park and Music Festival, a one-day food and music festival, which would take place at Pepper Park in the City of National City, California. The District would provide sponsorship in the form of District funding and services for the event through the CIVIC Event Activation Program. The event would involve live entertainment including live music, activities for children, on-site food trucks, demonstrations, and additional vendors to promote their business and sell goods at the event. The event would have an approximate duration of one-day including staging and would take place on Memorial Day. The event would have an anticipated attendance of 1,000 people and would be free and open to the public. The proposed event would be alcohol-free and family friendly. Parking would be available nearby at parking facilities and surface streets. Several parking spaces would be reserved to accommodate the Wonderbus and on-site food trucks.

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 Alterations 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 is a temporary event 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.

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT**

*PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY*

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

Land Use Designation: Park/Plaza and Commercial Recreation

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. 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 Exclusions: Section 8.d: Minor Alterations 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 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.

JOE STUYVESANT  
President/CEO

Determination by:  
Lillian Mattes  
Assistant Planner  
Development Services

Signature: Lillian Mattes  
Date: May 9, 2022

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: Rebecca Harrington  
Date: May 9, 2022