



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

Project: San Diego Granfondo Bike Ride  
Location: Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane, San Diego, CA 92101  
Parcel No.: Various  
Project No.: 2023-012  
Applicant: Tobias Panek, Event Director, Life Sports Foundation, (858) 255-9709  
Date Approved: Mar 20, 2023

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project is the annual San Diego Granfondo Bike Ride held by the Life Sports Foundation (Applicant) in the Spring in the city of San Diego, California. The proposed project is a one-day event with three (3) different bike ride routes, including the Piccolo, Medio and Granfondo Routes (35, 60, and 100 miles, respectively). The bike ride is to begin and end at Ruocco Park, and all event participants shall adhere to the rules of the road while riding. Event registration, water, and mechanical assistance will be available to event participants at Ruocco Park and along the bike routes. The bicyclists would depart in waves from Ruocco Park, with the three (3) routes running south along Harbor Drive, east towards Alpine, southwest towards Chula Vista, and returning along the Bayshore Bikeway towards the finish line. The event is anticipated to have approximately 1,200 attendees, and one (1) additional day is required for event set-up and breakdown. The awards ceremony following the bike ride would be held at Ruocco Park, and refreshments would be provided to the event participants and spectators. All event staging would be limited to Ruocco Park, and the public promenade shall not be blocked at any time. Parking would be available at nearby parking facilities and surface streets.

The three (3) bike ride routes include areas outside of the District's jurisdictional boundary. For the portion of the project in the District's jurisdiction, the event, as well as event set-up and breakdown, would be limited to the weekend, and there would be no road closures as a result of the proposed project.

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.

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**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, amphitheatres, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.

The portion of the proposed project within the District's jurisdiction 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 for 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 Districts: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11); 5 - National City Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 15); and 7 - Chula Vista Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 19)

Land Use Designations: Park/Plaza and Streets

The portion of the project located within the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and Coastal Act exclusion authority of the District conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it is for 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 Exclusion: 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 portion of the proposed project within the CDP and Coastal Act exclusion authority of the District is determined to be Categorical 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.

For the portion of the proposed project located outside of the District's CDP jurisdiction, additional approvals may be required from other agencies.

**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: Mar 20, 2023

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: Rebecca Harrington  
Date: Mar 20, 2023