



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

Project: Sediment Core Sampling by the San Diego Unified Port District in the San Diego Bay
Location: Near Grape Street Pier and Coronado Tidelands Park
Parcel No.: 017-025 and 057-011
Project No.: 2023-040
Applicant: Department of Environmental Conservation, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92101
Date Approved: Mar 21, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve sediment core sampling by the San Diego Unified Port District (Applicant) in the San Diego Bay. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve the collection and processing of 4-foot sediment cores at three relatively undisturbed locations. Two locations are near Grape Street Pier and the third location is near Coronado Tidelands Park. Sediment Core samples will be sent to a laboratory to undergo radiometric dating to assist in the determination of sedimentation rates.

The collection of sediment core samples will be conducted using a vibracorer deployed from a research vessel which would be owned and operated by Gravity Consulting. The vibracoring system consists of a vibrating power head attached to a 6-foot long, 4-inch diameter core barrel with a check valve and core catcher to create suction and retain sediment within the core tube. Sediment logging and processing will also be performed on the sampling vessel. Each 4-foot sediment core will be extruded from the core tube using a hydraulic extruder, to advance the core in 2 cm increments so that each sample can be weighed, labeled, and placed in a cooler in preparation for shipment to a laboratory for radiometric dating.

The entire content of each sediment core will be processed and contained for analysis. Investigation derived waste would be mainly comprised of consumable field supplies such as spent nitrile gloves, aluminum foil, and paper towels. These items will be collected and disposed of as solid waste in a normal refuse container.

The proposed project is anticipated to occur in August 2023 and would take approximately two (2) days to complete. Due to its nature and limited scope, the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips and would require limited use of equipment. Therefore, impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic are not anticipated to occur. Furthermore, the Applicant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding construction demolition debris, hazards and hazardous materials, and stormwater.

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.f. 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 as 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 is for the purpose of data collection and resource

evaluation activities which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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) and 6 - Coronado Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 17)

Water Use Designations: Recreational Boat Berthing and Open Bay/Water

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve sediment core sampling consistent with the existing certified water 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.e: Information Collection

8.e. Information Collection: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

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 not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

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 for the establishment and maintenance of those lands for open space, ecological preservation, and habitat restoration. 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:
Abigail Haynam
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Signature: Abigail Haynam
Date: Mar 21, 2023

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Rebecca Harrington
Date: Mar 21, 2023