

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

Project: Investigative Sediment Sampling by Pacific Maritime Freight, Inc.
Location: 1444 Cesar E. Chavez Parkway, San Diego, CA 92113
Parcel No.: 021-005
Project No.: 2023-133
Applicant: Shelly Anghera, Coastal, Water, & Environmental Technical Director, Moffat & Nichol.
630 Grand Avenue, Suite D, Carlsbad, CA 92008; (714) 296-9017
Date Approved: 10/10/2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve investigative sediment sampling by Pacific Maritime Freight, Inc. (Applicant) in the city of San Diego, California. Previous sediment investigations in the area have detected chemical concentrations in the sediments below the surface at levels in excess of nearby cleanup orders. The purpose of this investigation is to characterize the current spatial distribution and magnitude of chemicals of potential concern in sediments within the Pacific Maritime Freight leasehold area.

Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve the collection of sediment cores from eleven (11) locations within the Applicant's leasehold. The vertical profile of each sediment core would be examined to determine if contaminant concentrations changed significantly with depth, suggestive of changes in contaminant inputs over time. In addition to sediment contaminants, physical sediment characteristics would also be evaluated. The Applicant and its authorized contractors shall maintain field notes during sampling and compositing operations. The results of the investigation are to aid in design planning and management of contaminants in coordination with the District's Environmental Protection Department and Real Estate Department.

Sampling Analysis Plan

Sediment cores will be collected from eleven (11) locations, consisting of three (3) previous sediment sampling locations conducted as part of the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal Investigative Order (R9-2017-0081) for the District and City of San Diego (see Figure 1). The new proposed eight (8) sampling locations all are limited to the Applicant's leasehold and were determined by stratified random sampling methods using statistical software. One core will be taken at each of the eleven (11) sampling locations for a total of eleven (11) cores. Each core will be sectioned and labeled with its subsample identification, core sample station, lengths, and depths.

Sampling cores will be collected using electrically powered vibracore equipment from one of the Applicant's vessels. Each core will be collected with a new 3-inch diameter polycarbonate tube. All sampling equipment, including bowls, spoons, buckets, etc., will be decontaminated between each sampling location using an Alconox rinse. The bottom of the sampling cores will be mounted with a stainless-steel catcher to prevent sample loss as the core is being pulled through the water column onto the boat for sample processing.

The vibracore and sample core tube will be lowered from the vessel using an A-frame mounted winch. The sampling unit will be lowered to the mudline at the sampling location and powered on. The winch line will remain taut enough to maintain the core as close to vertical as possible as it is vibrated into the sediment. The unit will be turned off once the target depth, or refusal, has been reached at the sampling location.

The position of the sample will be recorded using the vessel's GPS system and the sampler unit will be retrieved with the winch. Refusal will be defined as penetration of less than 2 inches per minute. The vessel will be moved slightly for up to a total of three sampling attempts per sampling station if refusal occurs. Since this program is measuring post-industrial harbor deposits, refusal is not anticipated. Multiple sampling devices will be used to increase the likelihood of obtaining all samples. Either the longest of the sample cores collected from the three sampling attempts will be processed for analyses or the project manager will identify an alternate sampling location.

The sample core will be removed from the vibracore unit, and the polycarbonate core will be capped and processed on the pier. The liner will be cut into 1-foot horizons and then split lengthwise so that the sediment can be logged and processed. Each core will be photographed, and descriptive logs will be generated for each of the bores to document sediment properties. Archives of individual core segments will be collected.

Target depths for each of the borings (11 cores total for 11 stations) will be seven feet or refusal. Sediment samples will be collected from the upper-most five feet in 1-foot increments of the sediment core to determine the vertical characteristics. Each 1-foot interval will be collected with a stainless-steel spoon and placed directly into laboratory pre-cleaned jars. The laboratory will homogenize each sample until a consistent color and texture is achieved. Each sample container will be labeled with the project name, sample identification, type of analysis to be performed, date and time, and initials of the person preparing the sample.

Prior to the commencement of work, the Applicant shall coordinate additional approvals and permits with the Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Quality Control Board. The investigative work is anticipated to commence in approximately November of 2023 and would take approximately three (3) days to complete.

Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of 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 Tenant 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: CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6)/District Guidelines for Compliance with the CEQA Section 3.f: Information Collection

- 3.f. 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. 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 would involve investigative sediment sampling for the purpose of basic data collection, research, 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 District: 4 - Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal (Precise Plan Figure 13)

Water Use Designation: Specialized Berthing

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve investigative sediment sampling consistent with the existing certified Water use designation. 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 consist of investigative sediment sampling that 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)(2) of the Port Act, which allows for all visitor-serving commercial and industrial uses and purposes, and the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of commercial and industrial buildings, plants, and facilities. 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
Acting President/CEO

Determination by:
Lillian Mattes
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Signature: Lillian Mattes
Date: 10/10/2023

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz D. Tangri
Date: 10/10/2023

Figure(s)

1. Pacific Maritime Freight, Inc. Leasehold Area and Sediment Sampling Locations

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