CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and Notice of Approval

Project: Flagship Electrical Improvements and Fast Charger Installations
Location: Ferry Landings at 5th Ave (600 Convention Way, San Diego, CA 92101), & Broadway Ferry Landing Dock Float (990 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92191).
Parcel No.: 019-063, 019-064 & 018-035, 018-125
Project No.: 2024-039
Applicant: Brad Engel, Star & Crescent Boat Company dba Flagship Cruises & Events (1311 1st Street, Coronado, CA 92118) (619) 234-4111.
Date Approved: 04/05/2024

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Existing electrical facilities at Broadway Pier and 5th Avenue (Convention Center) will be upgraded to accommodate the installation of new off-the-shelf automotive 350kW DC fast chargers for shoreside charging of commercial harbor craft (Flagship’s electric ferries). The proposed project includes installation of new electrical above/ below ground transformers in accordance and coordination with SDG&E requirements. If existing conduit cannot accommodate new electrical lines up to 750 linear feet by three-foot wide, trenching would be required. A portion of the promenade will remain open at all times in the event trench work is needed on the promenade, and if potholing on either side is inaccessible. Additional equipment includes upgraded electrical meters/ sub-meters, AC/DC converters and breaker panels, install new electrical conduits, and the installation of a 350kW DC fast charger at the Broadway ferry landing dock float, as well as the 5th Avenue ferry landing dock float as shown on Attachment 1.

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 Applicant and 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 Exemptions: SG §15301, Class 1/Section 3.a: Existing Facilities and SG §15303, Class 3/Section 3.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures:

3.a. Existing Facilities (SG § 15301) (Class 1): Includes operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

(7) Existing facilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility service.

AND/OR

3.c. New Construction of Conversion of Small Structures (SG § 15303) (Class 3): Includes construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of existing small structures from one use to another with minor modifications to the exterior of the structure. Examples of this exemption include:

(3) Water, sewer, electrical, gas, telephone, and other utility structures or facilities.
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 result in the installation of new electrical infrastructure. Furthermore, 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: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)
Land Use Designations: Terminal Berthing/ Specialized Berthing

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it consists of supporting the terminals with electrical upgrades which are 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.a: Existing Facilities and Section 8.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures:

8.a. Existing Facilities: The operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

(2) Public and private utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewer, or other utility services.

AND/OR

8.c. New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures: Construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small, new equipment and facilities, involving negligible or no change of existing use of the property, including but not limited to:

(2) Water main, sewer, electrical, gas, or other utility extensions of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Sections of the District’s Coastal Development Permit Regulations as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it would involve a negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

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)(1) of the Port Act, which allows for the establishment, improvement, and conduct of a harbor, and for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operation of wharves, docks, piers, slips, quays, and all other works, buildings, facilities, utilities, structures, and appliances incidental, necessary, or convenient, for the promotion and accommodation of commerce and navigation. 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.
Determination by:
Kevin Parker, AICP
Senior Planner
Development Services

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: 
Date: 04/05/2024

Signature: 
Date: 04/05/2024
Attachment 1

Broadway Ferry Landing Location

5th Avenue Ferry Landing Location