



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 37-05/02/2024-0356
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 05/02/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2024-0356	

PROJECT TITLE  
 SAN DIEGO BAY/SD BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CAULERPA PROLIFERA INFESTATION ERADICATION PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SDUPD, EILEEN MAHER, DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-686-6352
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 3165 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	CITY SAN DIEGO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92101

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$2,918.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$	0.00

- Exempt from fee
- Notice of Exemption (attach)
  - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	0.00

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

TOTAL RECEIVED    \$    50.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, LIZANA GUZMAN, Deputy
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Payment Reference #: CHECK #211510



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

**FILED**  
May 02, 2024 03:19 PM  
JORDAN Z. MARKS  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
File # 2024-000376  
State Receipt # 37050220240356

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

**SAN DIEGO BAY/SD BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CAULERPA  
PROLIFERA INFESTATION ERADICATION PROJECT**

**Check Document being Filed:**

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type):

**FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY CLERK ON May 2, 2024**  
**Posted May 2, 2024 Removed \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Returned to agency on \_\_\_\_\_**  
**DEPUTY \_\_\_\_\_**

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

## Notice of Exemption

## CEQA Guidelines Appendix E

<p><b>To:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814</li>   <li>■ San Diego County Recorder/County Clerk 1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260 San Diego, CA 92101-2480</li> </ul>	<p><b>From:</b> (Public Agency) San Diego Unified Port District Development Services Department 3165 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101</p>
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**Project Title:** *San Diego Bay/SD Bay National Wildlife Refuge Caulerpa prolifera Infestation Eradication Project*  
**Project Location – Specific:** *Various and outside the San Diego Unified Port District jurisdictional boundary and inside the Coastal Commission permitting jurisdiction*  
**Project location – City:** *Coronado*  
**Project Location – County:** *San Diego*

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Port of San Diego and the Southern California *Caulerpa* Action Team, including member agencies California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California Coastal Commission, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are mobilizing a response to a new discovery of the invasive algae (seaweed) *Caulerpa prolifera* in the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in the San Diego Bay. During monitoring surveys, the new discoveries occurred on both April 18, and April 20, 2024. This non-native seaweed can take over natural habitats, disrupting the ecosystem and displacing native plants and the animals that rely on them. Invasions have happened in several locations in southern California, as well as across the globe. It is illegal in California to possess, sell, or transport any seaweed in the in genus *Caulerpa*. The Southern California *Caulerpa* Action Team is preparing a Rapid Response Eradication Plan to address the immediate need to remove this invasive species. It is critical that the response begin immediately to prevent additional spread, and to minimize the cost of the response effort while the infestation site is still small. It is fortunate that the Southern California *Caulerpa* Action Team and the eradication teams are already in place and active; regional authorizations and funding sources are being sought. The Rapid Response Eradication plan includes the following components:

- **Control of Infestation Site-** To prevent disturbance by boat anchors and boat wakes the affected boat slip will be controlled through coordination with the site homeowner's association and slip occupant. Additional visual exclusion markers will be deployed if necessary.
- **Localized Eradication Level Survey** - An intensive diver survey will be conducted within the affected area. Divers will locate, record, and map any *Caulerpa prolifera* found. The current coverage estimate is 23 square meters.
- **Localized Removal** – The *Caulerpa prolifera* will be covered by trained divers with a sealed barrier that will kill the algae by exclusion from light, oxygen, and circulation. This method has been successfully used in the past at three other *Caulerpa* infestation sites.
- **Post Removal Surveys** – Diver surveys will be conducted both immediately following removal and over a longer timeframe to help ensure the species is completely removed and does not repopulate the area.
- **Broad Area Surveys** – Diver surveys will occur in surrounding areas of San Diego Bay to ensure other areas have not been invaded.

The summarized work will occur generally within the Expanded Survey Boundary and may be performed outside of this expanded area but located within the District's jurisdictional boundaries, as depicted in Figure 1, below.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** *San Diego Unified Port District (SDUPD)*

**Name of Persons or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

**SDUPD**, Eileen Maher, Director, Environmental Conservation Department, 3165 Pacific Highway San Diego CA 92101 619.686.6352;  
**Marine Taxonomic Services, Ltd. (MTS)**, 920 Rancheros Drive Suite F-1 San Marcos CA 92069 769.410.8392; and  
**Merkel & Associates, Inc. (M&A)**, 5434 Ruffin Road San Diego CA 92123 858.560.5465  
**US Fish & Wildlife Service**, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 1080 Gunpowder Point Drive Chula Vista CA 91910 760.535.7065

**Exempt Status: (Check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions: *Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources (SG § 15307) (Class 7) and Actions by Regulatory Agency for Protection of the Environment (SG § 15308) (Class 8)***
- Statutory Exemption. State code number:

**Reason Why Project Is Exempt:** 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 since the SDUPD is a regulatory agency and the proposed *Caulerpa prolifera* eradication will protect native species from infestation, by this invasive seaweed. *Caulerpa prolifera* can take over natural habitats, disrupting the ecosystem and displacing native plants and the animals that rely on them. Further, this species grows very quickly, at one centimeter-per-day and has the potential to swiftly overtake native species in the project area. Invasions have happened in several locations in southern California, as well as across the globe. The project applicants must rapidly remove this invasive species and it is critical that the response to begin immediately, in order to prevent additional spread, and to minimize the cost of the response effort while the infestation site is still within a small area of the Bay.

**Lead Agency Contact Person and Telephone Number:** Dennis Campbell, (619) 686-7218

**Signature:**  **Date:** 5/1/24 **Title:** Program Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

**Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:**

San Diego County



Transaction #: 7754481  
Receipt #: 2024156027

JORDAN Z. MARKS  
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk  
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260  
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750  
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155  
[www.sdarcc.gov](http://www.sdarcc.gov)

Cashier Date: 05/02/2024  
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 05/02/2024 3:19 pm

Payment Summary

Total Fees	\$50.00
Total Payments	\$50.00
Balance:	\$0.00

Payment

CHECK PAYMENT #211510 \$50.00

Total Payments \$50.00

Filing

CEQA - NOE FILE #: 2024-000376 Date: 05/02/2024 3:19PM Pages: 3

State Receipt # 37-05/02/2024-0356

Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee \$50.00

Total Fees Due: \$50.00

Grand Total - All Documents: \$50.00