



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

Project: District Wayfinding and Regulatory Signage Improvements – Phase 1
Location: Harbor Island, San Diego, CA 92101
 Coronado Tidelands Park, 2000 Mullinex Drive, Coronado, CA 92118
Parcel No.: Various
Project No.: 2024-077
Applicant: Abraham Pineda, Capital Project Manager, Engineering-Construction, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 725-6058
Date Approved: December 10, 2024

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve the replacement and enhancement of existing wayfinding and regulatory signage on Harbor Island and at Coronado Tidelands Park by the San Diego Unified Port District (District) in the cities of San Diego and Coronado, California. The new wayfinding signage will guide locals and visitors to destinations within the District, and the new regulatory signage will have updated codes and regulations for anyone visiting the waterfront. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve the following improvements:

- Removal of existing signs, posts and mounting hardware, crosswalks and yield markings.
- Installation of concrete paving at accessible table-top sign locations.
- Irrigation and landscape retrofits at new paving areas and at areas disturbed by sign footings.
- Procurement, fabrication and installation of proposed sign panels including associated footings, posts, panels, and other sign components.
- Installation of proposed crosswalk, yield markings, and path striping/stencil signage.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in approximately December 2024, and would be completed in approximately April 2025, with ongoing modifications and maintenance as needed. All promenades would remain open and unobstructed during signage removal and replacement, and all existing trees would remain in place.

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 District 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: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.a: Existing Facilities and CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 (Class 11)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.i: Accessory Structures

3.a. Existing Facilities: 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:

- (11) Existing on and off-premise signs.
- (12) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs.

AND/OR

- 3.i. Accessory Structures: Includes construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing facilities, including:
 - (5) On-premise signs.

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 for the proposed project because it would consist of the replacement and enhancement of existing wayfinding and regulatory signage that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing. 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: 2 - Harbor Island/Lindbergh Field (Precise Plan Figure 9) and 6 - Coronado Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 17)

Land Use Designations: Streets; Park/Plaza; and Promenade

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve the replacement and enhancement of existing wayfinding and regulatory signage 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:
 - (7) New copy on existing on- and off-premise signs
 - (8) Maintenance and control of existing vegetation

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:
 - (3) Accessory structures, including, but not limited to, on-premise signs, small parking lots, fences, walkways, swimming pools, miscellaneous work buildings, temporary trailers, small accessory piers, minor mooring facilities, buoys, floats, pilings, or similar structures; and seasonal or temporary use items such as lifeguard towers, mobile food units, portable restrooms, or similar structures

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 consist of the replacement and enhancement of existing wayfinding and regulatory signage which would not result in an expansion of use beyond that previously existing and would involve negligible or no change of existing use of the property.

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)(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.

RANDA CONIGLIO
Acting President/CEO

Determination by:
Lillian Mattes
Associate Planner
Development Services

Signature: Lillian Mattes
Date: 12/11/2024

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 12/11/2024