



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

Project: Improvements to Landscaping by San Diego Unified Port District at Grand Caribe Shoreline Park  
Location: 598 Grand Caribe Causeway, Coronado, CA, 92118  
Parcel No.: 046-006; 046-011  
Project No.: 2024-096  
Applicant: Ken Wallis, Director of Guest Experiences, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA, 92101; 619-686-6361  
Date Approved: 09/19/2024

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would involve landscaping improvements in the Grand Caribe Shoreline Park by the San Diego Unified Port District (District) in the city of Coronado, California. The purpose of the proposed project is to build upon the existing landscaping at the park with an increased presence of native plants as well as converting some of the turf to native plant area to help stabilize the beach slope. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would consist of the following:

- Removal of three (3) struggling Aloe trees and one (1) Ficus tree, and replacement with four (4) Scrub Oak trees.
- Replace approximately 5,000 square feet of turf between the beach and walking path on the east side of the park with native plants.
- Fill in underplanted areas of the park with native plants, and remove non-natives
- Placement of approximately 78 boulders (1-4 feet in size) to use as accents in planting areas throughout the park
- Irrigation maintenance and replacement to water the new plants

The proposed project is anticipated to start in approximately October 2024 and would take approximately six (6) months to complete with ongoing maintenance as needed. The sidewalk and street adjacent to the park would remain open throughout construction. The park would also remain open for public use throughout construction, however some of the trails within the park may have minor closures where pedestrians would be safely rerouted to maintain access. Staging for the proposed project would be within the footprint of the park. Anticipated equipment needed would include a small utility tractor, sod cutter, and various hand tools.

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.

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**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; CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (Class 2)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land

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:

(12) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs.

AND/OR

3.b. Replacement or Reconstruction (SG § 15302) (Class 2): Includes replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced.

AND/OR

3.d. Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4): Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, but not limited to:

(5) New gardening or landscaping.

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 involve landscaping improvements that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would consist of the replacement of existing irrigation structures, and would result in no permanent effects on the environment nor removal of mature, scenic trees. 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: 8 - Silver Strand South (Precise Plan Figure 21)

Land Use Designation: Park/Plaza

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve landscaping improvements consistent with the existing certified Land 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 Exclusions: Section 8.a: Existing Facilities; Section 8.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and Section 8.d: Minor Alterations to Land

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:

(8) Maintenance and control of existing vegetation.

AND/OR

8.b. Replacement or Reconstruction: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located essentially on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

(2) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

AND/OR

8.d. Minor Alterations to Land: Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, including but not limited to:

- (2) New gardening or landscaping.

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 landscaping improvements that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would involve the replacement of existing irrigation structures which would have the same purpose and capacity, and would result in no permanent effects on the environment nor removal of mature, scenic trees.

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:  
Justin Huitema  
Assistant Planner  
Development Services

Signature: Justin Huitema  
Date: 09/19/2024

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz D. Tangri  
Date: 09/19/2024