



CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and
NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Removal and Replacement of New Zealand Christmas Trees at Coronado Tidelands Park
Location: Tidelands Park, 2000 Mullinex Dr, Coronado, CA 92118
Parcel No.: 057-012
Project No.: 2024-113
Applicant: Kurt Brickley, Manager, Operations and Maintenance, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 686-6378
Date Approved: 11/19/2024

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would consist of the removal and replacement of two (2) existing New Zealand Christmas trees (scientific name *Metrosideros excelsa*) by the San Diego Unified Port District (District) at Coronado Tidelands Park in the city of Coronado, California.

The existing trees are located within the landscaped area along the western corner of the parking lot at Coronado Tidelands Park. The existing dying trees would be removed and replaced to avoid further deterioration and any potential issues or risks posed to public safety due to their decline. The District would remove and replace the existing trees with two (2) California Redbud trees (scientific name *Cercis occidentalis*) in the same planters, which would be planted with better spacing to accommodate the planting area. The tree species proposed for replanting is a non-invasive, drought tolerant plant species, and would reflect the palette of trees and shrubs approved for use throughout tidelands.

The proposed removal and replacement of the existing trees is anticipated to occur around November 2024 and is anticipated to take approximately one (1) day to complete, with operations beginning and concluding on the same day. Completion of the project would require a crew of approximately three (3) personnel and would not require special equipment other than simple chainsaws and associated landscaping tools. Due to the brief and temporary nature of the proposed project, there are no projected lane/path closures or parking impacts, and public access would be maintained during removal and replanting activities.

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 15304 (Class 4)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land

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:

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

AND/OR

3.d. Minor Alterations to Land: Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or

vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, 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 because it would consist of the removal and replacement of two (2) existing trees that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the 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: 6 - Coronado Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 17)

Land Use Designation: Open Space

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve the removal and replacement of two (2) existing trees 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; 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.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 because it would consist of the removal and replacement of two (2) existing trees that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing and would not involve the 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

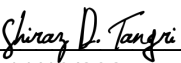
The proposed project complies with Section 87.(a)(5) of the Port Act, which allows for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operation of public buildings, public assembly and meeting places, convention centers, parks, playgrounds, bathhouses and bathing facilities, recreation and 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:
Davin Cox
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: 
Date: 11/19/2024

Signature: 
Date: 11/19/2024