



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

Project: Parking Lot Use as Ancillary Space for the GSV Summit Event at Seaport Village  
Location: 2-98 Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101  
Parcel No.: 018-054  
Project No.: 2025-031a  
Applicant: Josie Parry, Event Operations, Global Silicon Valley (GSV), 4 Embarcadero Ctr, Suite 3660, San Francisco, CA 94111; +44 7929 044320  
Date Approved: 2/23/2026

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would involve the use of parking lot space at Seaport Village by Global Silicon Valley (Applicant) for the GSV Summit Event in the city of San Diego, California. The event, an annual EdTech conference held at the Grand Manchester Hyatt San Diego (Hyatt), has previously used a small section of the parking lot for temporary activations connected with the event, and proposes to continue and expand this activation to offer more content to guests at an outdoor stage and lounge. A Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion (Project No. 2025-031) was issued previously for the project on March 18, 2025. This amendment is necessary to include the increased exterior lounge and seating areas from the previous event, as well as additional parking spaces required for an 18-wheeler trailer that would be utilized as a space for meetings and showcases throughout the event.

Up to approximately 40 parking spaces in the outdoor parking lot across Market Pl. directly south of the Hyatt would be utilized by the Applicant to accommodate the outdoor stage and lounge set-up. A connecting pathway from the main event to the exterior lot via the Hyatt loading dock would be installed to guide attendees between the two spaces. Set up for the exterior portion of the event would specifically consist of the following:

- One (1) approximately 40-foot by 60-foot tent with fabric walls to contain sound bleed from the stage.
- Stage risers, backdrop and miscellaneous AV to support presentations for approximately 150 seated guests.
- Generator to support AV system and HVAC within the tent.
- Additional lounge and activity seating outside the tent related to the sponsor and stage content.
- Small RV trailer.
- 18-wheeler trailer.
- Generator to support AV system and power to the trailer.
- Perimeter barricades for event security and crowd control.

There is possibility of a small bar for hosted receptions that would be serviced by Seaport Village tenants to provide potential beer and wine service in this space. Due to the sale of alcohol, temporary fencing is required to be installed around the footprint of the exterior space. Additionally, an RV truck for event partners at Road Trip Nation would share a portion of the exterior space.

The exterior lot would be used throughout the duration of the event, or approximately three (3) days, with an additional day for set up preceding the event; breakdown would directly follow the closure of the event on its final day. The event would last from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on its first two (2) days, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on its final day. Pending approval of a service permit, the small bar would provide potential beer and wine service during select hours within the preceding timeframes.

Due to its temporary nature and limited scope, 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 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 15304 (Class 4)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land and CEQA Guidelines Section 15323 (Class 23): Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings

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, but not limited to:

- (6) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

AND/OR

Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings: Consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. For the purposes of this section, "past history" shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. Facilities included within this exemption include, but are not limited to, racetracks, stadiums, convention centers, auditoriums, amphitheatres, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.

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 is a temporary use of a space for a temporary event that would result in no permanent effects on the environment, would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, and would consist of the normal operation of existing facilities for public gatherings. 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: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)

Land Use Designation: Commercial Recreation

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve a temporary use of a space for a temporary event 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 Exclusion: Section 8.d: Minor Alterations to Land

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 limited to:

- (5) Minor temporary uses of land and water having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including festivals, boating activities, parades, and running or bicycling events.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorical Excluded pursuant to the Section of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above because it is a temporary use of a space for a temporary event that 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.

SCOTT CHADWICK  
President/CEO

Determination by:  
Davin Cox  
Planner I  
Development Services

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 2/23/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri  
Date: 2/23/2026