



## CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS and NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Geotechnical Borings for Double Loop Connector Rail at National City Marine Terminal

Location: Adjacent to the Intersection of 32nd Street and Tidelands Avenue, National City, CA, 91950

Parcel No.: 025-010

Project No.: 2025-143

Applicant: Brian Trott, Senior Engineer, Shannon & Wilson, 100 North First Street, Suite 200, Burbank, CA 91502; 818-480-8484

Date Approved: 2/2/2026

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would involve geotechnical borings by Shannon & Wilson in the city of National City, California. The purpose of the proposed project is to perform exploratory borings to collect soil samples in support of the proposed future development of the Double Loop Connector Rail in National City Marine Terminal.

Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve drilling approximately two (2) geotechnical borings to a depth of approximately nine (9) feet below ground surface. Each boring would be approximately six (6) inches in diameter. The boring holes would be backfilled and patched at ground surface with cement and bentonite.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in early 2026 and take approximately one (1) day to complete with three (3) people working onsite. Equipment to complete the proposed project would include a drill rig, work truck and associated geotechnical equipment.

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 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 Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.f: Information Collection

- 3.f. Information Collection: Includes basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which has not yet been approved, adopted or funded.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines and the Section of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above because it would be for the purpose of basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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: 5 - National City Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 15)

Land Use Designation: Marine Related

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve geotechnical borings 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.e: Information Collection

8.e. Information Collection: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Section of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above because it would not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

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)(1) of the Port Act, which allows for the establishment, improvement, and conduct of a harbor, and for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, and operation of wharves, docks, piers, slips, quays, and all other works, buildings, facilities, utilities, structures, and appliances incidental, necessary, or convenient, for the promotion and accommodation of commerce and navigation. 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:  
Justin Huitema  
Planner I  
Development Services

Signature: Justin Huitema  
Date: 2/2/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri  
Date: 2/2/2026