



# CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS and NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Full Capture System Trash Capture Device Installations on Various District Tenant Leaseholds  
Location: Various Leaseholds Across District Tidelands  
Parcel No.: Various  
Project No.: 2026-016  
Applicant: Stephanie Bauer, Environmental Programs Manager, Environmental Protection, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 400-4719  
Date Approved: 7/13/2026

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would include the installation of trash capture devices within existing storm drain systems that convey runoff from commercial and industrial areas within District Tidelands. The proposed project would bring the District and Tenants into compliance with the California State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) statewide trash provisions (referred to as Trash Amendments) by December 2030<sup>1</sup>. These Trash Amendments require local California agencies that are subject to stormwater discharge permits to reduce the discharge of trash transported via municipal storm drain systems by installing and maintaining trash capture devices, or Full Capture Systems (FCSs), within "priority land uses" (PLUs) that include commercial and industrial uses.

The proposed project would involve the installation of FCSs at approximately 25 District Tenant leaseholds that qualify as a PLU in the cities of San Diego, National City, and Coronado (see Attachment A). Work to specifically complete the proposed project at each location would include the following:

- Submittal for approval of a Hydrology and Hydraulic (H&H) analysis prepared by a civil engineer;
- Submittal of verification that the proposed trash FCS(s) is on the current State Water Board's List of Certified FCSs<sup>2</sup> prior to installation
- Clearing of debris from and protect existing storm drains in place; and
- Modification of existing catch basins and/or inlets with an FCS that meets the State Water Board's criteria.

Tenants must complete construction and installation activities for each trash FCS on their leaseholds no later than December 1, 2030. H&H Assessments of stormdrain infrastructure and other factors such as drainage area and flow rate, space limitations, and tidal influence which will need to confirm the location(s) and type of each proposed FCS(s) to be installed. Installation of each trash FCS is anticipated to take approximately two (2) days to complete, with ongoing installations, modifications, inspections, and maintenance as needed, and would require a crew of approximately three (3) personnel. For locations within parking lots, nearby parking spaces may be closed to complete FCS installation, which would only be closed for approximately two (2) hours at a time and would reopen once each device has been installed.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California to Control Trash (Ocean Plan) and Part 1 Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, And Estuaries of California adopted by the State Water Board located on the Statewide Water Quality Control Plans for Trash webpage at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/trash\\_control/documentation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/documentation.html)

<sup>2</sup> Executive Director Designee Certification of Trash Full Capture Systems (Updated November 2025): [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/trash\\_implementation/2025/edd-cert.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/trash_implementation/2025/edd-cert.pdf)

Furthermore, Tenants 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 15303 (Class 3)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 (Class 7)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.g: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources; CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.h: Actions by Regulatory Agency for Protection of the Environment; 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:

AND/OR

- 3.g. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources: Includes actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. Construction activities are not included in this exemption.

AND/OR

- 3.h. Actions by Regulatory Agency for Protection of the Environment: Includes actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption.

AND/OR

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

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 installation of new trash capture devices in existing storm drain systems on District tenant leaseholds that would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would consist of the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures, and is an action taken by a regulatory agency as authorized by state or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of natural resources and the environment. 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: 1 - Shelter Island/La Playa (Precise Plan Figure 4); 2 - Harbor Island/Lindbergh Field

(Precise Plan Figure 9); 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11); 4 - Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal (Precise Plan Figure 13); 5 - National City Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 15); 6 - Coronado Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 17); and 8 - Silver Strand South (Precise Plan Figure 21)

Land Use Designations: Aviation Related Industrial; Commercial Fishing; Commercial Recreation; Industrial Business Park; Marine Related Industrial; and Marine Sales and Services

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve the installation of new trash capture devices in existing storm drain systems on District tenant leaseholds 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:

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, 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 because it would consist of the installation of new trash capture devices in existing storm drain systems on District tenant leaseholds that would involve negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing and would involve 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)(4) of the Port Act, which allows for the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of highways, streets, roadways, bridges, belt line railroads, parking facilities, power, telephone, telegraph or cable lines or landings, water and gas pipelines, and all other transportation and utility facilities or betterments incidental, necessary, or convenient for the promotion and accommodation of any of the uses set forth in this section. 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: 7/13/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri  
Date: 7/13/2026

Attachment A



North

Proposed FCS Locations on Tenant Parcels

Port Trash Amendments



0 500 1,000 Feet



