



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

Project: Harborfest at Chula Vista Bayside Park
Location: Chula Vista Bayside Park, 999 Bayside Parkway, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Parcel No.: Various
Project No.: 2026-072
Applicant: Daniel Bermudez, Special Events Coordinator, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Date Approved: 7/28/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of an annual waterfront event, Harborfest, hosted by the City of Chula Vista at the Chula Vista Bayside Park in the City of Chula Vista, California. The proposed event is a free, family-friendly event that would feature a variety of displays and activities that highlight maritime history, arts, public safety, recreation and local culture. The event would include a few stages with live music and other entertainment. The event would have a duration of one (1) day, and would require an additional two (2) days for event set-up and take down. Attendance is anticipated to be up to approximately 8,000 people.

The District would provide sponsorship in the form of District funding and services for the event. Parking for event attendees would be available at no cost at Parcel H-23, located near Chula Vista Bayside Park. The parking area would be reserved for the event period only, and shuttle service would be provided from the parking area to the event site at no cost.

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.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land and Categorical Exemption: 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 negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

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

AND/OR

Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (SG § 15323) (Class 23): 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, amphitheaters, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.

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 is for

a temporary event that would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, and would consist of the normal operations 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: 7 - Chula Vista Bayfront (Precise Plan Figure 19)

Land Use Designations: Commercial Recreation; Park/Plaza; Promenade, Recreational Boat Berthing, Boat Navigation Corridor and Estuary

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve a temporary event at an existing park and marina consistent with the existing certified land and water use designations that would draw the public to the Chula Vista Bayfront thereby encouraging recreational opportunities and promoting public access along the waterfront. 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 not 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 Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Section of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above because it consists of a temporary event that would involve minor temporary use of land, would have no permanent effect on the environment 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.

SCOTT CHADWICK
President/CEO

Determination by:
Betsy Viramontes
Planner I
Development Services

Signature: Betsy Viramontes
Date: 7/28/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 7/28/2026