



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

Project: San Diego Retreat Meditation Walk at Bayside Park in Chula Vista
Location: Chula Vista Bayside Park, 999 Bayside Parkway, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Parcel No.: 031-006
Project No.: 2026-101
Applicant: Kelly Sprague, Events Director, Encephalon, Encephalon Inc., 13115 Vail Cut Off Road SE, Rainier, WA 98576
Date Approved: 7/22/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the San Diego Retreat Meditation Walk at Bayside Park in the city of Chula Vista, California. All event participants would begin the walk on the southeastern side of Bayside Park and walk northwest along the Bayshore Bikeway and finish the walk by looping back towards Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center (Gaylord Pacific).

The proposed event would take place over three (3) consecutive days in August and consist of approximately two (2) hour sessions each day: two of which would be held in the morning and one (1) in the evening. Event attendance is anticipated to be approximately 1,000 people. During the event, the promenade shall remain open and available for use. Parking for event participants would be available at Gaylord Pacific. There would be no road closures during the event, and no parking spaces would be required for event staging.

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 Exemptions: Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines § 15304; District Guidelines § 3.d.) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15323 (Class 23): Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines § 15304; District Guidelines § 3.d.): 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, amphitheaters, 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. These are

appropriate for the proposed project because it is 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 § 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: Park/Plaza; and Promenade

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve 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

Minor Alterations (District Coastal Development Permit Guidelines § 8.d.): Minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetations 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. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it is 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:
Betsy Viramontes
Planner I
Development Services

Signature: Betsy Viramontes
Date: 7/22/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 7/22/2026