



CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS and NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: Amendment of San Diego Unified Port District Code Article 8, Sections 8.02 and 8.05 to Rename Cesar E. Chavez Park to Chicano Park on the Bay
Location: 1449 Chicano Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: 021-002
Project No.: 2026-120
Applicant: Larry Hofreiter, Director of Parks and Recreation, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101; 619-686-6257
Date Approved: 9/23/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is to amend the San Diego Unified Port District Code Article 8, Sections 8.02 – Park Areas Regulated, and 8.05 – Vending & Expressive Activity Regulated, to rename Cesar E. Chavez Park to Chicano Park on the Bay by San Diego Unified Port District (District) in the city of San Diego, California.

On April 21, 2026, District staff provided the Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) with an overview of the controversy surrounding Cesar E. Chavez, along with a recommendation to rename the park and the roadway bearing his name. Throughout the Summer of 2026, District staff solicited input from local area residents about potential new names for the park and facilitated two (2) workshops with representatives from fourteen (14) community-based organizations to review the suggested names and evaluate them based on the criteria identified in the District's Naming Policy (BPC Policy No. 781). At both workshops, all participants unanimously agreed that the park should be renamed "Chicano Park on the Bay".

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: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.a: Existing Facilities

- 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.

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 involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing and would not result in a significant cumulative impact due to the continuation of the existing use. 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: 4 - Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal (Precise Plan Figure 13)
 Land Use Designation: Park/Plaza

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve amending Port Code Article 8, Sections 8.02 – Park Areas Regulated, and 8.05 – Vending & Expressive Activity Regulated, to rename Cesar E. Chavez Park to Chicano Park on the Bay, 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.a: Existing Facilities

- 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.

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 involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

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:
Justin Huitema
Planner I
Development Services

Signature: Justin Huitema
Date: 9/23/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 9/23/2026