



CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS and NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: San Diego International Food and Music Festival by SD International Food & Music Festival at Embarcadero Marina Park North
Location: 400 Kettner Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: 019-062
Project No.: 2026-125
Applicant: Michael Carrasco, Organizer, SD International Food & Music Festival, 400 Kettner Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101; 760-956-0758
Date Approved: 10/15/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the San Diego International Food & Music Festival, a free-to-attend special event, which would take place at Embarcadero Marina Park North (EMPN) in the City of San Diego, California in the month of October. The proposed project would consist of a free-to-attend food and music festival, which would include live music, entertainment (such as show cars), and food and beverage vending. The event and related setup and breakdown would have an approximate duration of two (2) days (one day for set-up and day one of the event, one day for the second day of the event with breakdown at the end of day). The event would have an estimated attendance of 4,000 people.

The event area is limited to the portion of EMPN which sits south of the roundabout turn (**see Exhibit 1**) and would be temporarily fenced off, but public access to surrounding park areas, sidewalks and the waterfront promenade would remain open throughout setup, the event, and breakdown. Temporary (two day) closures would be limited to the designated event footprint which includes most of the park and the parking lot at EMPN. ADA access and emergency vehicle access would be maintained at all times. Event staff would direct pedestrians around work areas during setup and breakdown to ensure safe public access.

Temporary event equipment would include interlocking fencing close to the entrance of EMPN at the south end of the roundabout, perimeter fencing surrounding the stage area for safety and crowd control, event lighting within the beer garden/bar area, tables with chairs in the designated dining area, and approximately 50 audience chairs positioned in front of the stage. Additional event equipment would include roll off bins in the parking lots, vendor canopies, waste receptacles, portable restrooms, event signage, and other temporary furnishings necessary for festival operations. All equipment would be removed following the event.

Amplified sound would be limited to approved event hours and would not exceed 85 dB between the sound board and the water's edge. Event staff would monitor sound levels using a decibel meter throughout the event and adjust volume immediately if needed. Amplified sound would end at 7:00 PM and only acoustic (unamplified) performances would occur after that time.

The proposed project would require the temporary use of the parking lot (approximately 80 parking spaces) at EMPN for event operations such as food trucks, vendor support and event infrastructure (as shown in Exhibit 1), with the exception of approximately two (2) handicap spots on the north end of the parking lot which would remain open throughout setup, the event and breakdown. Signage shall be placed near the entrance of the EMPN parking lot to notify members of the public about parking closures a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the event. Parking for the general public and event attendees would be available at nearby parking facilities and side streets.

Due to its temporary nature and limited scope, 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.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4)/District Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land; and 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 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 Gathering (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(s) of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above because it would be for a temporary event that would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees. 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: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)

Land Use Designation: Park/Plaza;

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve a temporary event for the International Food and Music Festival at an existing park consistent with the existing certified Land Use designation(s). 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(s) of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above because it would be for 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:
Justin Huitema
Planner I
Development Services

Signature: Justin Huitema
Date: 10/15/2026

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz Tangri
Date: 10/15/2026

Exhibit 1

