

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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July 23, 2020

Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver

Coastal Act Section 30624.7

Based on the project plans and information provided in your permit application for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit pursuant to Section 13238.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. If, at a later date, this information is found to be incorrect or the plans revised, this decision will become invalid; and, any development occurring must cease until a coastal development permit is obtained or any discrepancy is resolved in writing.

Waiver: 6-20-0291-W**Applicant:** San Diego Unified Port District**Location:** Mid-South San Diego Bay, GPS Coordinates 32.72452 N, -117.17528 W

Proposed Development: Conduct a baseline health assessment of juvenile Pacific oysters and Bay mussels in four sets of 21-day deployments over the course of one year, by attaching two 25 in. x 10 in. x 6 in. shellfish baskets to an existing signal buoy. Shellfish tissue and water samples would be taken on several days of each deployment and analyzed. All equipment, including shellfish, would be removed on the final day of each deployment.

Rationale: The project is a temporary project that will provide data and insight into microbial contaminants in San Diego Bay and potential implications for future aquaculture and restoration projects. While Pacific oysters are non-native, the project will use existing shellfish residing in San Diego Bay so no new additions of Pacific oysters will occur. Marine debris reduction and management practices are proposed as part of the project to protect water quality. The baskets would be secured near the surface of the water below the buoy and would therefore not impact sensitive habitat, views, or public access and recreation. As such, the proposed development is consistent with the Chapter Three policies of the Coastal Act.

This waiver will not become effective until reported to the Commission at its August 2020 meeting and the site of the proposed development has been appropriately noticed, pursuant to 13054(b) of the California Code of Regulations. The Notice of Pending Permit shall remain posted at the site until the waiver has been validated and no less than seven days prior to the Commission hearing. If four (4) Commissioners object to this waiver of permit requirements, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,
John Ainsworth
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ML".

Melody Lasiter
Coastal Program Analyst