



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753 5a (Rev. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753 5a

RECEIPT NUMBER 37-03/11/2026-0226
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT PLANNING DEPARTMENT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/11/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2026-0226	

PROJECT TITLE
 HABITAT FRIENDLY SHORELINE STRUCTURES AT HARBOR ISLAND AND SWEETWATER CHANNEL

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME TIMOTHY BARRETT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS MANAGER, PORT OF SAN DIEGO	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-686-6544
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 3165 PACIFIC HWY	CITY SAN DIEGO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92101

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entry

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227 50	\$	0 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$3,043 75	\$	0 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437 25	\$	0 00

- Exempt from fee
- Notice of Exemption (attach)
 - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850 00	\$	0 00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	0 00

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50 00

SIGNATURE <i>X Steve Sangthai</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, STEVE SANGTHAI, Deputy
--------------------------------------	---

Payment Reference #: ORDER#/AUTH# 217213044/055997



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

FILED
Mar 11, 2026 09:49 AM
JORDAN Z. MARKS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2026-000247
State Receipt # 37031120260226

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

**HABITAT FRIENDLY SHORELINE STRUCTURES AT HARBOR ISLAND
AND SWEETWATER CHANNEL**

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type)

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK ON <u>March 11, 2026</u>
Posted <u>March 11, 2026</u> Removed _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY _____

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

Notice of Exemption*CEQA Guidelines Appendix E*

To ■ San Diego County Recorder/County Clerk
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
San Diego, CA 92101-2480

From: ■ San Diego Unified Port District
Planning Department
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title Habitat Friendly Shoreline Structures at Harbor Island and Sweetwater Channel

Project Applicant: Timothy Barrett, Environmental Programs Manager, Sustainability and Innovation Branch, Port of San Diego, 3165 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 686-6544

Project Location – Specific Southwest Shoreline of Harbor Island and Sweetwater Channel

Project location – City San Diego, CA and Chula Vista, CA

Project Location – County San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project The proposed project would involve the replacement of portions of an existing riprap shoreline revetment along Harbor Island and Sweetwater Channel with habitat-friendly shoreline structures that create ecological value and resiliency while maintaining the necessary structural protection currently in place. In March 2021, the District successfully completed a nature-based pilot project along the existing armored shoreline of Harbor Island using EConcrete COASTALOCK interlocking tide pool units. Through material composition and design elements, the units provide an alternative solution to traditional armored shorelines that incorporates nature-based strategies into an urban context. The pilot project included the removal of approximately 160 linear feet of existing traditional riprap rock revetment and, in its place, the installation of a hybrid solution that increased local biodiversity, productivity, and ecosystem services while continuing to provide the equivalent shoreline stabilization required for the area. Since installation, semi-annual monitoring efforts have indicated the pilot project is exceeding performance expectations biologically and structurally. The units are creating a richer, diverse, and natural community with a lower ratio of invasive to native species compared to traditional rock revetment. The shoreline is expected to be more structurally sound in the long term than traditional riprap as biological growth over time further protects the units.

For both sites, production of the habitat-friendly structural units would be completed off-site. The removal of the existing riprap stones and the installation of the habitat-friendly shoreline structure units could be completed either waterside or landside. Installation of the units would occur over several weeks within acceptable low tide windows. Work would occur five days per week and would require approximately seven (7) construction workers.

If installed waterside, construction would likely involve a crane operated from a barge off the shoreline. The barge would avoid existing eelgrass and would be secured in place to avoid disturbance to the channel and not impede upon navigational rights. If installed landside, construction would likely involve a crane operated from the top of the existing shoreline slope with appropriate project limits demarcated with fencing. This may involve temporarily diverting public access during the installation period. Some temporary sidewalk detours may be provided to maintain public access during the installation period.

The existing riprap stones within the footprint of the installation site would be removed likely by crane from either waterside or landside, with the exception of leaving a few stones in place to lock in and support the foundation of the newly-placed sustainable shoreline units. The crane would likely remove the riprap using a clam bucket or grapple, as determined by the contractor.

All removed riprap stones would be removed from the project area and transported off-site to an upland location. Upon removal of the existing riprap stones, the new sustainable shoreline structures would be placed within the shoreline footprint likely with the use of a lifting crane. Ecological and structural monitoring would take place every

six months post-deployment for two years to evaluate the performance of the habitat friendly shoreline structures as an ecological armoring alternative to traditional riprap stones

The project requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pre-certified Nationwide Permit #13 Bank Stabilization, and a Regional Water Quality Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, as part of the entitlement process. Additionally, the Applicant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regulating construction and demolition debris, noise, and stormwater. Although present in the nearshore adjacent to the project area, no eelgrass resources are known to occur within the project footprint. If construction occurs waterside, all operations will require avoidance of eelgrass habitat. A pre-construction eelgrass survey would be completed prior to commencement of construction activities to identify potential eelgrass and unvegetated areas present in the nearshore adjacent to the shoreline, consistent with the ACOE Nationwide Permit requirements. This survey and on-site observations would be used to inform construction method and operations in order to avoid impacts to existing eelgrass that may be present in the nearshore outside the perimeter of the project area.

Harbor Island Site

The District received funding for the proposed project at the Harbor Island site through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program, and anticipates that installation would commence in spring or summer 2026.

Informed by the success of the COASTALOCK pilot project, the District is now pursuing additional habitat-friendly structural shoreline alternatives. The proposed project site is located along the existing armored shoreline of Harbor Island in San Diego Bay in proximity to the existing COASTALOCK units installed in March 2021. The project scope consists of the removal of up to 450 linear feet of existing riprap rock revetment at two locations along Harbor Island, to be replaced with habitat-friendly structural shoreline units such as COASTALOCK or equivalent. The proposed habitat-friendly shoreline structures would be designed to incorporate water retaining elements which are absent in most urban waterfronts. The units will be placed between Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) elevations within the footprint of the removed rock, as indicated in the attached construction plans. The expected area of impact is approximately 12 feet wide by 450 linear feet long, resulting in a total project area footprint of approximately 5,400 square feet distributed over the two locations. The proposed project would provide shoreline stabilization while simultaneously creating a well-defined local ecosystem that mimics natural rocky intertidal habitat, increasing local biodiversity and biological productivity. A five-foot buffer would be provided in each direction of the project site during installation. Since the project site would be intermittently submerged by the tide, it would not encroach into public park space.

For the Harbor Island site, a temporary construction staging and laydown area for the proposed project would be located at Spanish Landing Park West, adjacent to Nimitz Bridge. This would involve the temporary use of the west parking lot, which is a paid lot and comprises 43 total spaces. Up to 28 spaces on the western end of this parking lot would be occupied by the staging and laydown area for a period not to exceed 180 days. The eastern end of this parking lot would continue to provide access to 15 parking spaces. The adjacent east parking lot would remain fully open, offering 56 spaces with 3 ADA-compliant spots.

Sweetwater Channel Site

In 2023, District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of San Diego to replace portions of an existing riprap shoreline revetment along Sweetwater Channel with habitat-friendly shoreline structures that create ecological value and resiliency while maintaining the necessary structural protection currently in place.

In April 2020, higher than normal rainfall within a short period led to a failure in the City of San Diego's (the City) wastewater collection system, resulting in a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharge of 11.23 million gallons directly into the Sweetwater River connecting to San Diego Bay. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) determined that this discharge was in violation of Clean Water Act section 301 and Water Code section 13376, as well as a violation of the Statewide General Order and the Regional General Order.

The City and the Regional Board reached a settlement agreement wherein the City will fund a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) that replaces approximately 1,000 linear feet of existing rock revetment along the Sweetwater Channel shoreline with an alternative sustainable shoreline that increases biodiversity and habitat value, improves water quality, and provides additional ecosystems services while maintaining the necessary structural protection currently in place

To facilitate the settlement agreement with the Regional Board, the City proposed a project for the installation of an eco-engineered sustainable shoreline along the Sweetwater Channel. The Sweetwater Channel Sustainable Shoreline SEP is informed by the success of the District's prior EConcrete COASTALOCK pilot project at Harbor Island. The proposed location within the Sweetwater Channel is in proximity to significant recreational uses including Pepper Park and Pier 32 marina, on the northern edge of the channel, and marsh habitat along the southern edge of the channel. The SEP scope of work includes the design, planning and environmental review, construction and two years of post-construction monitoring to evaluate biological establishment. To implement this project, staff is requesting the Board of Port Commissioners (Board) authorize the District to enter into a MOU, which details the responsibilities, budget, tasks, and deliverables necessary to complete the project. The City would fund the project for \$2,600,000. The District shall not be required to incur any cost or spend any of its own funds to plan, design, permit, procure, construct, install, and/or monitor the Sustainable Shoreline, as the MOU includes the reimbursement of staff time. The MOU would be effective until September 30, 2027.

The proposed project site is located along the existing armored shoreline of Sweetwater Channel in San Diego Bay. The proposed sustainable shoreline structures would be designed to create water retaining elements which are absent in most urban waterfronts. The proposed project, consisting of habitat-friendly shoreline structure units, would provide shoreline stabilization while simultaneously creating a well-defined local ecosystem that mimics natural rocky intertidal habitat, increasing local biodiversity and biological productivity. The site would consist of the replacement of approximately 1,000 linear feet of the existing riprap armored shoreline. A five-foot buffer would be provided in each direction of the installation site and included as part of the total project area. The installation site would be positioned to be intermittently submerged by the tide and, therefore, would not encroach into public park space.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project San Diego Unified Port District (SDUPD)

- Exempt Status** (Check one)
- Ministerial (Sec 21080(b)(1), 15268),
 - Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3), 15269(a)),
 - Emergency Project (Sec 21080(b)(4), 15269(b)(c)),
 - Categorical Exemption(s): Existing Facilities (SG § 15301) (Class 1), Replacement or Reconstruction (SG § 15302) (Class 2), Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4) and Information Collection (SG § 15306) (Class 6)**
 - Statutory Exemption. State code number

Reason Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, 15304, and 15306 and Sections 3 a., 3 b., 3.d., and 3 f. of the District's Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA because the project would consist of temporary use of a portion of paid parking lot for construction staging at the Harbor Island site, as well as removal of existing rip rap or revetment stones at both sites to be replaced with the installation of habitat-friendly structure units that would involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced, does not involve removal of mature or scenic trees, and does not result in a serious or major disturbance to environmental resources. 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). Sections 3 a., 3 b., 3 d., and 3 f. of the District's Guidelines are as follows:

3 a Existing Facilities (SG § 15301) (Class 1) 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

AND/OR

3 b Replacement or Reconstruction (SG § 15302) (Class 2) Includes replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced

AND/OR

3 d Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4) Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees

AND/OR

3 f Information Collection (SG § 15306) (Class 6) Includes basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to environmental resources. These may be for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which has not yet been approved, adopted or funded

Lead Agency Contact Person and Telephone Number Lily Tsukayama, (619) 686-8199

Signature  Date 3/19/2026 Title Principal Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk



San Diego County



Transaction #: 8926179
Receipt #: 2026094612

JORDAN Z. MARKS
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155
www.sdarcc.gov

Cashier Date: 03/11/2026
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 03/11/2026 9:57 am

Payment Summary

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows: Total Fees \$300.00, Total Payments \$300.00, Balance \$0.00

Payment

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows: VITALCHEK PAYMENT \$300.00, Total Payments \$300.00

Filings

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows: CEQA - NOE (4 entries) with fees of \$50.00 each, Total Fees Due: \$50.00

San Diego County

Transaction #: 8926179

Receipt #: 2026094612

CEQA - NOE

FILE #: 2026-000246 Date: 03/11/2026 9:49AM Pages: 3

State Receipt # 37-03/11/2026-0225

Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee \$50.00

Total Fees Due: \$50.00

CEQA - NOE

FILE #: 2026-000247 Date: 03/11/2026 9:49AM Pages: 5

State Receipt # 37-03/11/2026-0226

Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee \$50.00

Total Fees Due: \$50.00

Grand Total - All Documents:

\$300.00