

San Diego Unified Port District

**CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION
of Proposed Coastal Development**

Project: Enhancement and Restoration of Emory Cove, South San Diego Bay
Location(s): San Diego, California
Parcel No.(s): 044-001
Planning No.: 2008 003-91-143
Applicant: Eileen Maher, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Date: January 24, 2008

Project Description:

The project involves a shoreline enhancement in South San Diego Bay. Emory Cove is located south of the Coronado Cays on Highway 75, along the Silver Strand. The shoreline along Emory Cove has collected debris and invasive plants are pushing out native salt marsh vegetation. To further enhance the natural resources and to provide refuge and nursery areas for fish and birds in South San Diego Bay, an enhancement and restoration of Emory Cove will be conducted. This project is not a mitigation requirement.

This enhancement and restoration project will remove debris and invasive species in the wetlands. In addition, eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation will be planted. These enhancements will assist in protecting juvenile fish from predators and provide better habitat for the thousands of shorebirds that frequent Emory Cove.

Port Master Plan Reference:

The project site is located in Planning District 9, South Bay Saltlands which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 23 in the certified Port Master Plan. The Port Master Plan land use designation within the limits of the proposed project is Conservation - Wetlands. The project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because the project proposes the restoration of an existing topographical feature under the current certified use designation.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION:

The above project is determined to be Categorically Excluded under Sections 8.a. (13) and 8.d. (4) of the San Diego Unified Port District's Coastal Development Permit Regulations:

- 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, including but not limited to:
 - (13) Maintenance of wildlife habitat area, fish enhancement structures, streamflows, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources.

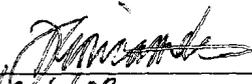
AND

- 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:

- (4) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production.

BRUCE B. HOLLINGSWORTH
Executive Director

Determination by:
Darlene Nicandro
Senior Redevelopment Planner

Signature: 
Date: 1/24/08

cc: D. Wilkens, Executive Office
J. Helmer, Land Use Planning

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: January 24, 2008
To: Eileen Maher, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
From: Darlene Nicandro, Senior Redevelopment Planner, Land Use Planning 
Subject: **ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION OF EMORY COVE, SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY- CEQA DETERMINATION**

Staff has reviewed the project description for the Emory Cove shoreline enhancement in South San Diego Bay. Emory Cove is located south of the Coronado Cays on Highway 75, along the Silver Strand. The shoreline along Emory Cove has collected debris and invasive plants are pushing out native salt marsh vegetation. To further enhance the natural resources and to provide refuge and nursery areas for fish and birds in South San Diego Bay, an enhancement and restoration of Emory Cove will be conducted. This project is not a mitigation requirement.

This enhancement and restoration project will remove debris and invasive species in the wetlands. In addition, eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation will be planted. These enhancements will assist in protecting juvenile fish from predators and provide better habitat for the thousands of shorebirds that frequent Emory Cove.

Based upon the above description, the project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1):

- 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, including but not limited to:

13. Maintenance of wildlife habitat areas, stream flows, springs, waterholes and stream channels to protect wildlife resources.

If you have any questions regarding the above determination, please call me at extension 6473.

File: X-741

San Diego Unified Port District

**CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION
of Proposed Coastal Development**

Project: Removal of Debris from A-8 Anchorage
Location(s): San Diego, California
Parcel No.(s): Unassigned
Planning No.: 2006 025-143
Applicant: Eileen Maher, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Date: October 3, 2006

Project Description:

The proposed project includes removal of debris from the existing A-8 Anchorage in San Diego Bay to clean up and maintain the area for the protection of the environment. Phase 1 of debris removal will consist of the completion of the focused assessment of the remaining 96 items of debris surveyed during the side-scan sonar. Once it is determined what these 96 debris items are, a determination will be made if they pose any environmental hazards; and if so, they will be removed within our budget constraints. 27 additional items of environmental debris will also be removed during this phase 1 project. The Port anticipates phase 2 of the project to be completed once the A-8 Anchorage is closed at the end of 2009. At that time, any boat hulls or other debris will be removed.

Port Master Plan Reference:

The project site is located in Planning District 5, National City Bayfront, which is delineated on Precise Plan Map Figure 15 in the certified Port Master Plan. The Port Master Plan land use designation within the limits of the proposed project is Small Craft Anchorage/Mooring. The project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because the project proposes to maintain an existing facility for the protection of wildlife resources under the certified use designation.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION:

The above project is determined to be Categorically Excluded under Sections 8.a.(13) of the San Diego Unified Port District's Coastal Development Permit Regulations:

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, including but not limited to:

(13) Maintenance of wildlife habitat area, fish enhancement structures, streamflows, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources.

BRUCE B. HOLLINGSWORTH
Executive Director

Determination by:
Darlene E. Nicandro
Associate Planner

Signature: *D. Nicandro*
Date: 10/4/06

cc: D. Wilkens, Executive Office
J. Helmer, Land Use Planning

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: October 3, 2006
To: Eileen Maher, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
From: Darlene E. Nicandro, Associate Planner, Land Use Planning *DEN*
Subject: **REMOVAL OF DEBRIS FROM A-8 ANCHORAGE - CEQA
DETERMINATION**

Land Use Planning staff has reviewed the project description for the removal of marine debris and sunken vessels from the existing A-8 Anchorage in San Diego Bay to clean up and maintain the area for the protection of the environment. Phase 1 of debris removal will consist of the completion of the focused assessment of the remaining 96 items of debris surveyed during the side-scan sonar. Once it is determined what these 96 debris items are, a determination will be made if they pose any environmental hazards; and if so, they will be removed within our budget constraints. 27 additional items of environmental debris will also be removed during this phase 1 project. The Port anticipates phase 2 of the project to be completed once the A-8 Anchorage is closed at the end of 2009. At that time, any boat hulls or other debris will be removed.

Based upon the above description, the project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1):

- 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, including but not limited to:

- 13. Maintenance of wildlife habitat areas, stream flows, springs, waterholes and stream channels to protect wildlife resources.

If you have any questions regarding the above determination, please call me at extension 6473.

File: X-693