State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2021 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/21) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
37-08/16/2021-0615
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (*If applicable*)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		08/16/2021

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
SAN DIEGO	37-2021-0615

PROJECT TITLE
BLUE CARBON EELGRASS STUDY

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION, EILEEN MAHER			619-686-6254
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	**CITY**	**STATE**	**ZIP CODE**
3165 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	SAN DIEGO	CA	92101

PROJECT APPLICANT (*Check appropriate box*)

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☒ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$3,445.25	$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	$2,480.25	$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,171.25	$	0.00

☒ Exempt from fee

- ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		$	50.00
☐ Other		$	0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☒ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 50.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X Jennifer Acosta	San Diego County Clerk, JENNIFER ACOSTA, Deputy

Payment Reference #: CHECK NO: 197780

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

FILED

Aug 16, 2021 12:23 PM
Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr.
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2021-000705
State Receipt # 37081620210615

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

BLUE CARBON EELGRASS STUDY

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 August 16, 2021

Posted August 16, 2021 **Removed** SEP 15 2021

Returned to agency on SEP 15 2021

DEPUTY Jennifer Tuck

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: ■ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

From: (Public Agency)
San Diego Unified Port District
Planning & Environment
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title: Blue Carbon Eelgrass Study

Project Location – Specific: *Site A (East of Zuniga Jetty): start location of transect: 479072.77 mE, 3615685.66 mN, end location of transect: 480125.88 mE, 3615857.96 mN*

Site B (East of Zuniga Jetty): start location of transect: 479072.77 mE, 3615685.66 mN, end location of transect: 480125.88 mE, 3615857.96 mN

Site C (Entrance of Shelter Island Yacht Basin): start location of transect: 478133.17 mE, 3618846.88 mN, end location of transect: 478146.21 mE, 3618653.29 mN

Site D (South of the Coronado Bridge): start location of transect: 485096.94 mE, 3616261.04 mN, end location of transect: 484613.27 mE, 3616253.50 mN

Site E (Inshore of Homeport Island): start location of transect: 484988.77 mE, 3614913.87 mN, end location of transect: 485340.45 mE, 3614908.16 mN

Site F (South of Entrance to Chula Vista Marina): start location of transect: 490227.92 mE, 3609183.78 mN, end location of transect: 489552.07 mE, 3609170.16 mN

Site G (Northwest of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve): 489,551 mE, 3,608,987 mN

Site H (West of the Chula Vista Bayfront): sampling would occur at South Bay Borrow Pit (3,609,445E; 489,142N - UTM, Zone 11 (NAD83)).

Site I (East of Crown Isle): start location of transect: 486833.63 mE, 3610996.46 mN, end location of transect: 488574.09 mE, 3611161.79 mN

Site J (Along the Northern Shoreline of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve): sampling would occur north of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve (32.36.49 N, 117. 06.14 W)

Project location – City:San Diego, Coronado, and Chula Vista, California
Project Location – County: San Diego County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: *The San Diego Unified Port District (Applicant) proposes to receive grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Maritime Environmental Technical Assistance (META) program to conduct a San Diego Bay-wide evaluation and inventory of carbon storage and sequestration potential (often referred to as "blue carbon") of two species of eelgrass (proposed project). The MARAD META program promotes the research, demonstration, and development of emerging technologies, practices, and processes that improve maritime industrial environmental sustainability. The Applicant's proposed study of carbon storage and sequestration in eelgrass (Blue Carbon Eelgrass Study or Study) would be the first quantitative effort to characterize carbon sequestration rates within eelgrass beds throughout San Diego Bay. Results from the Study would provide baseline data on carbon stocks and sequestration rates, which would support future sampling and restoration efforts, and could provide guidance on future greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.*

The Study would focus on two species of eelgrass present in San Diego Bay: common eelgrass (Zostera marina) and wide-leaved eelgrass (Z. pacifica). It is anticipated that the Study would occur between Fall 2021 and Summer 2022, during the peak growth season for eelgrass, and may continue to occur annually

as a multi-year study (dependent upon budget or funding availability). Biomass and sediment analysis would occur at up to ten sites with up 12 sampling locations (time and budget permitting) over a ten- to fourteen-day sampling period. Descriptions of each location are included below:

1. Site A (East of Zuniga Jetty): sampling would occur at western end of eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 479072.77 mE, 3615685.66 mN, end location of transect: 480125.88 mE, 3615857.96 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

2. Site B (East of Zuniga Jetty): sampling would occur at eastern end of eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 479072.77 mE, 3615685.66 mN, end location of transect: 480125.88 mE, 3615857.96 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

3. Site C (Entrance of Shelter Island Yacht Basin): sampling would occur along eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 478133.17 mE, 3618846.88 mN, end location of transect: 478146.21 mE, 3618653.29 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

4. Site D (South of the Coronado Bridge): sampling would occur along eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 485096.94 mE, 3616261.04 mN, end location of transect: 484613.27 mE, 3616253.50 mN). Three sampling locations at this site at three different depths: 0 ft MLLW, -4 ft MLLW, and -6 MLLW.

5. Site E (Inshore of Homeport Island): sampling would occur along eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 484988.77 mE, 3614913.87 mN, end location of transect: 485340.45 mE, 3614908.16 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

6. Site F (South of Entrance to Chula Vista Marina): sampling would occur along eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 490227.92 mE, 3609183.78 mN, end location of transect: 489552.07 mE, 3609170.16 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

7. Site G (Northwest of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve): sampling would occur at an existing eelgrass restoration site (489,551 mE, 3,608,987 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

8. Site H (West of the Chula Vista Bayfront): sampling would occur at South Bay Borrow Pit (3,609,445E; 489,142N - UTM, Zone 11 (NAD83)). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

9. Site I (East of Crown Isle): sampling would occur south of eelgrass transect line (start location of transect: 486833.63 mE, 3610996.46 mN, end location of transect: 488574.09 mE, 3611161.79 mN). Depth of sampling location: -4 ft MLLW.

10. Site J (Along the Northern Shoreline of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve): sampling would occur north of the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve (32.36.49 N, 117. 06.14 W). Depth of sampling location: -4 to 0 ft MLLW.

Most of the sampling locations would occur along existing eelgrass transect lines utilized by the U.S. Navy in their evaluations of San Diego Bay eelgrass beds. All locations would be accessed by boat and divers would conduct the activities detailed below for the biomass analysis and the sediment analysis.

Biomass Analysis

The biomass analysis portion of the Study includes three components: quadrat measurements, biomass sampling, and productivity sampling.

***Quadrat measurements:** At the beginning of the Study, three replicate biomass quadrats of eelgrass would be measured at each location (up to 36 total quadrats). The quadrats are composed of PVC pipe and would be 25 centimeters (cm) by 25 cm. A diver would bring down the quadrat, place it in the sample area, take a photo of the quadrat, count and record the number of eelgrass shoots within the quadrat, and measure and record the height and width of each shoot within the turions within each quadrat. The quadrats would be brought back to the boat with the diver.*

***Biomass sampling:** At the beginning of the sampling period, 50 individual shoots over a range of heights and widths would be collected within one quadrat for each of the two eelgrass species (100 total shoots). The shoots would be collected with the use of vegetable shears. These shoots would be used for analysis at an off-Tidelands facility.*

***Productivity sampling:** At the beginning of the sampling period, 10 turion sheaths from a mature individual*

eelgrass plant would be identified within one quadrat for each of the two eelgrass species (20 total turion sheaths). At the blade-sheath junction of the most mature intact eelgrass blade, the diver would use a hypodermic needle to mark a reference hole on the blade. The diver would wrap colorful zip-ties at the base of the plant and place a stake at the location of the marked shoots to be able to identify the plant on the last day of the sampling period. On the last day of the sampling period, the diver would re-visit the marked shoots and visually identify newly formed blade material based on upward displacement of the reference hole and record the area of the new blade material and total blade material. On the last day of the sampling period, between five (5) and twenty (20) of the marked blades would be collected using vegetable shears, and the zip-ties and stakes would be removed. The collected blades would be used for analysis at an off-Tidelands facility.

Sediment Analysis

The sediment analysis portion of the Study includes two components: sediment coring and sediment sampling.

***Sediment coring:** During the sampling period, three (3) sediment core samples would be taken at each location during the sampling period (approximately 36 samples total). The core tubes would be either two (2) or three (3) inches in diameter, depending on stiffness of sediment. Additional core samples may be necessary if the two-inch diameter core tube is used to meet sediment volume requirements for analysis. To take a sediment core sample, a three-point anchoring system would be set up over the sample location and the location and elevation of the site would be recorded. A vibracore would be attached to the anchoring system and used to drive the core tube into the ground. The majority of the cores would be collected down to one-meter-depth, however five (5) of the cores would be collected down to three-meter-depth (one at five different regions throughout the Bay). Collected core samples would be used for analysis at an off-Tidelands facility.*

***Sediment sampling:** This component would rely upon the cores collected during sediment coring. For the one-meter-depth cores, six samples would be collected (one every 10 cm for the first 50 cm, and one sample for the rest of the core). For the three-meter-depth cores, ten samples would be collected (one every 10 cm for the first 50 cm, and one sample every 50 cm for the rest of the core). Each sample would be photographed, recorded, and used for analysis at an off-Tidelands facility.*

In addition to the biomass analysis and sediment analysis, the MARAD META program would also fund an effort to model the evolution of eelgrass habitat in San Diego Bay with sea level rise and project how blue carbon may change over time, as a part of the Study. Finally, administration and grant management would also be funded and would include coordination with consultants, site visits, permitting, environmental and coastal review, review of draft and final reports, and quarterly reporting on the grant.

Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of 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.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: *San Diego Unified Port District*

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: *Eileen Maher, Environmental Conservation, Planning and Environment Division, San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 686-6254*

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: *Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4), 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 the CEQA Guidelines and the Sections of the District's Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA as identified below. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees and is for the purpose of basic data collection/research/experimental management/resource evaluation activities which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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). Section 3.b (2) of the District's CEQA Guidelines is as follows:*

> *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, including, but not limited to:*
>
> > *(6) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.*

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 an environmental resource. 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:** 8/11/2021 **Title**: Associate Planner

- ■ Signed by Lead Agency
- □ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

San Diego County

Transaction #: 5806623
Receipt #: 2021506071

Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr.
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.com

Cashier Date: 08/16/2021
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 08/16/2021 12:23 pm

Payment Summary

Total Fees:	$50.00
Total Payments	$50.00
Balance:	$0.00

Payment

CHECK PAYMENT #197780 $50.00

Total Payments $50.00

Filings

CEQA - NOE FILE #: 2021-000705 Date: 08/16/2021 12:23PM Pages: 5

State Receipt # 37-08/16/2021-0615

Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee $50.00

Total Fees Due: $50.00

COVER LETTER

Total Fees Due: $0.00

Grand Total - All Documents: $50.00