



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 37-04/18/2023-0268
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 04/18/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2023-0268	

PROJECT TITLE
SHELLFISH BASKET STUDY PHASE III

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-686-6200
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 3165 PACIFIC HIGH WAY	CITY SAN DIEGO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92101

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

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

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,839.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$2,764.00	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,305.25	\$	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 Daniel Butler</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, DANIEL BUTLER, Deputy
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Payment Reference #: AUTH CODE: 098743 ORDER# 160689478



SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

FILED
Apr 18, 2023 10:24 AM
JORDAN Z. MARKS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2023-000299
State Receipt # 37041820230268

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

SHELLFISH BASKET STUDY PHASE III

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** April 18, 2023
Posted April 18, 2023 **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

<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<p>From: (Public Agency) San Diego Unified Port District Development Services Department 3165 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101</p>
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Project Title: *Shellfish Basket Study Phase III*

Project Location – Specific: *Ocean area offshore Imperial Beach (32.586 N, -117.142 W)*

Project location – City: Imperial Beach

Project Location – County: *San Diego*

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The San Diego Unified Port District (Applicant) proposes to expand upon previous baseline health assessments of juvenile shellfish by performing baseline testing of the health and quality of adult oysters, mussels, and seaweed at one location offshore Imperial Beach using shellfish baskets and conducting concurrent water quality monitoring at this location (the shellfish and seaweed health testing and water quality testing are collectively referred to as the "Project"). During the spring of 2023, the Project is anticipated to occur over the course of one month and would include: (1) species harvesting and depuration; (2) the installation of a buoy system (see Figure 1), which would include four shellfish baskets containing shellfish and seaweed species; and (3) sampling of the shellfish and seaweed. Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of the 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 compliance with all laws and regulations associated with the activities on or in connection with the above-described premises, and in all uses thereof, including those regulating stormwater and hazardous materials.

The purpose of the Project is to better understand the relationship between microbial contaminants, water quality, and the presence of certain shellfish and seaweed species. The results of the Project would provide data on microbial contaminants and water quality, which could inform the potential for future shellfish and seaweed aquaculture siting, as well as the use of shellfish and/or seaweed for potential restoration activities and bioremediation projects. The Project would study two species of shellfish and one species of seaweed: adult Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and adult Bay mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*/*M. trossulus*) and green algae (*Ulva lactuca*). As described below, all shellfish and seaweed used in the Project would be harvested from existing shellfish and seaweed populations in San Diego Bay (Bay).

Shellfish and seaweed would be harvested by hand from existing piling or riprap structures within the Bay. Then the harvested organisms would undergo depuration at the Coastal and Marine Institute Laboratory at San Diego State University to eliminate the sampling bias associated with the existing Bay water quality conditions. This depuration would occur seven days before deployment. After harvesting and depuration, the shellfish and seaweed species would be placed into four (4) shellfish baskets for deployment.

Following depuration, the buoy system (see Figure 1) would be installed at the Project location. This would include:

- One 600-pound 2 foot by 2 foot by 2-foot concrete block and up to three additional concrete weights in five-gallon buckets that are up to 100 pounds each and would be placed on the seafloor
- One 5/8" nylon line approximately 45 feet in length, which would connect the concrete block to a surface buoy
- One 5/8" nylon line approximately 15 feet in length (tether line), which would be connected to an additional surface buoy and connected to the longer nylon line with a 3/8" shackle
- Four shellfish baskets, approximately 25 inches by 10 inches by 6 inches in size, which would be secured to the tether nylon line via secure clips on the baskets, and
- Potentially one additional submerged standard rubber marine-grade buoy, to ensure the baskets remain at a depth compatible with sampling, if necessary.

In total, the buoy system would have an approximate total radius of up to 30 feet and a bottom radius of three to four feet distributed between the concrete block and additional weights.

A maximum of two people would be required to deploy (and later remove) the buoy system at the project location, which would be sited approximately 3,100 feet Northwest of the Imperial Beach Pier (32.586 N, -117.142 W). Please see Figure 1 for a diagram of the buoy system. The four baskets would be filled with the shellfish and/or seaweed species as follows:

- One basket would contain approximately 100 adult Pacific oysters
- One basket would contain approximately 100 adult Bay mussels
- One basket would contain approximately 100 adult Pacific oysters and 3 pounds of green algae
- One basket would contain approximately 100 adult Bay mussels and 3 pounds of green algae.

The buoy system would be deployed over a 14-day period. Shellfish tissue, seaweed samples, and water samples would be taken on day zero, 7, and 14 of the deployment. The deployment period would allow adequate time for the shellfish to filter water and accumulate any microbial contaminants present in the surrounding waters. Taking multiple samples would be necessary because it would allow the Applicant to assess how water quality, shellfish tissues, and seaweed samples change over time with the presence of shellfish and seaweed during the deployment period. The Applicant would send the collected samples to both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Applied Industrial Microbiology Lab in Vista, CA, for analysis.

On day 14, or the final day of deployment, all equipment, including any remaining shellfish and algae, would be removed from the water. Removal of the buoy system from the Project location would require approximately one day to complete. The Project location would be accessed by small boat for basket installation, sampling, and removal.

The Applicant would be responsible for compliance with all laws and regulations associated with the activities on or in connection with the above-described premises, and in all uses thereof, including

those regulating stormwater and hazardous materials, as well as acquiring necessary permits from relevant resource agencies, such as the California Coastal Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board, including the necessary real estate or access agreements, or coastal development permitting for the proposed project sites that are not within the District's permitting or coastal jurisdiction.

Figure 1

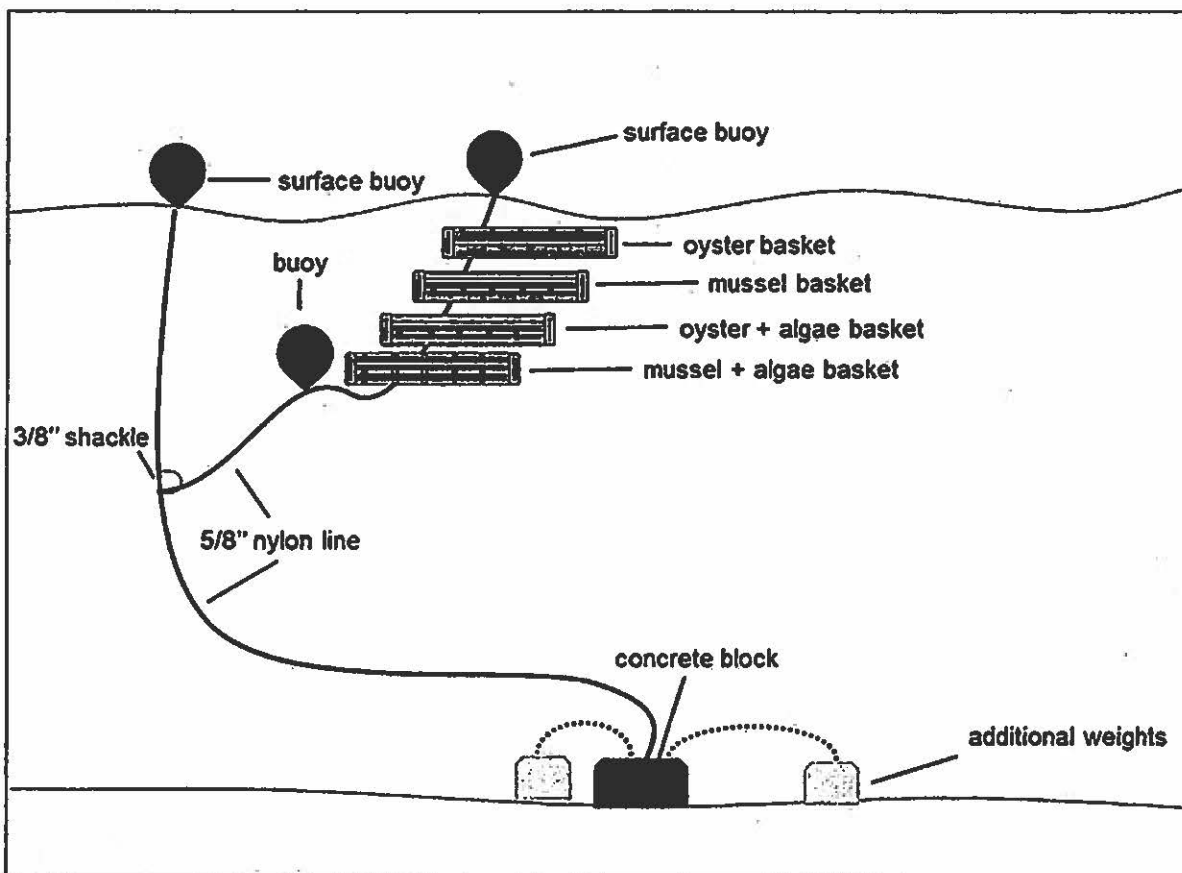


Figure 1 Diagram of buoy system.

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.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Diego Unified Port District (SDUPD)
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Diego Unified Port District, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 686-6200

- 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 Exemptions: *New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (SG § 15303) (Class 3), 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 the CEQA Guidelines and the Sections of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above. 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). *Sections 3.c, 3.d, and 3.f of the District's CEQA Guidelines are as follows:*

Categorical Exemptions: SG §15303, Class 3/Section 3.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; SG §15304, Class 4/Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land; SG §15306, Class 6/Section 3.f: Information Collection

3.c New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (SG § 15303) (Class 3): Includes construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of existing small structures from one use to another with minor modifications to the exterior of the structure.

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: *Lisa Madsen, (619) 821-9099*

Signature: *Lisa Madsen* **Date:** 4/17/23 **Title:** Senior Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

San Diego County



Transaction #: 7099506
Receipt #: 2023132817

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: 04/18/2023
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 04/18/2023 10:24 am

Payment Summary

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

Payment	
VITALCHEK PAYMENT	\$50.00
Total Payments	\$50.00
Filing	
CEQA - NOE	FILE #: 2023-000299 Date: 04/18/2023 10:24AM Pages: 5
	State Receipt # 37-04/18/2023-0268
Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee	\$50.00
Total Fees Due:	\$50.00
Grand Total - All Documents:	\$50.00