



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 37-02/13/2024-0097
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 02/13/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2024-0097	

PROJECT TITLE
SHELLFISH BASKET STUDY AT FORMER A-8 ANCHORAGE

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT (SDUPD)	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-686-6200
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 3165 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	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)	\$4,051.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$	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 X <i>Maria Gomez</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, MARIA GOMEZ, Deputy
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Payment Reference #:



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

FILED
Feb 13, 2024, 09:29 AM
JORDAN Z. MARKS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2024-000102
State Receipt # 37021320240097

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 AT FORMER A-8 ANCHORAGE

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** February 13, 2024
Posted February 13, 2024 **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 at Former A-8 Anchorage
Project Location – Specific: Former A-8 Anchorage (32.6497, -117.1275)
Project location – City: Coronado
Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The San Diego Unified Port District (Applicant or Port) proposes to perform baseline testing of the health and quality of adult oysters, mussels, and seaweed at one location in the former A-8 anchorage 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"). The Project is anticipated to occur over the course of two months within the first six months of 2024 and would include:

- (1) species harvesting and depuration;
- (2) the installation of a buoy system (see Figure 1), which would include eight shellfish baskets containing shellfish and seaweed species; and
- (3) sampling of the shellfish and seaweed, and water quality monitoring.

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 at the proposed location. 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 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 eight (8) shellfish baskets for deployment.

Following depuration, the buoy system would be installed at the Project location. No eelgrass resources are known to occur within the project footprint. Please see Figure 1 for the configuration of the proposed buoy system. 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 20 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
- Eight 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
- At least 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 proposed location, which would be sited approximately 2,230 feet west of the docks at the National City Marine Terminal and approximately 2,540 feet northwest of the opening of Sweetwater Channel. The eight baskets would be filled with the shellfish and/or seaweed species as follows:

- One basket would contain between 80-150 adult Pacific oysters at a high stocking density
- One basket would contain between 80-150 adult Bay mussels at a high stocking density
- One basket would contain between 40-80 adult Pacific oysters at a low stocking density
- One basket would contain between 40-80 adult Bay mussels at a low stocking density
- One basket would contain between 40-80 adult Pacific oysters at a low stocking density and 3 pounds of green algae
- One basket would contain between 40-80 adult Bay mussels a low stocking density and 3 pounds of green algae
- One basket would contain between 80-150 adult Pacific oysters at a high stocking density and 3 pounds of green algae
- One basket would contain between 80-150 adult Bay mussels a high stocking density and 3 pounds of green algae

The buoy system would be deployed over a total estimated time of 60 days, or two-month period. It is anticipated that the shellfish baskets would be installed about a week after the buoy system is deployed, and that the shellfish baskets would be removed about a week prior to removal of the buoy system. Shellfish tissue, seaweed samples, and water samples would be collected frequently, anticipated to be on a weekly basis, during the deployment of the shellfish baskets. The deployment period of the shellfish baskets 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, and additional sampling may be needed during the deployment period. The Applicant would send the collected samples to an off-Tidelands location (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Weck Laboratories) for analysis.

On 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 proposed location would require approximately one day to complete. The Project location would be accessed by small boat for basket installation, sampling, and removal.

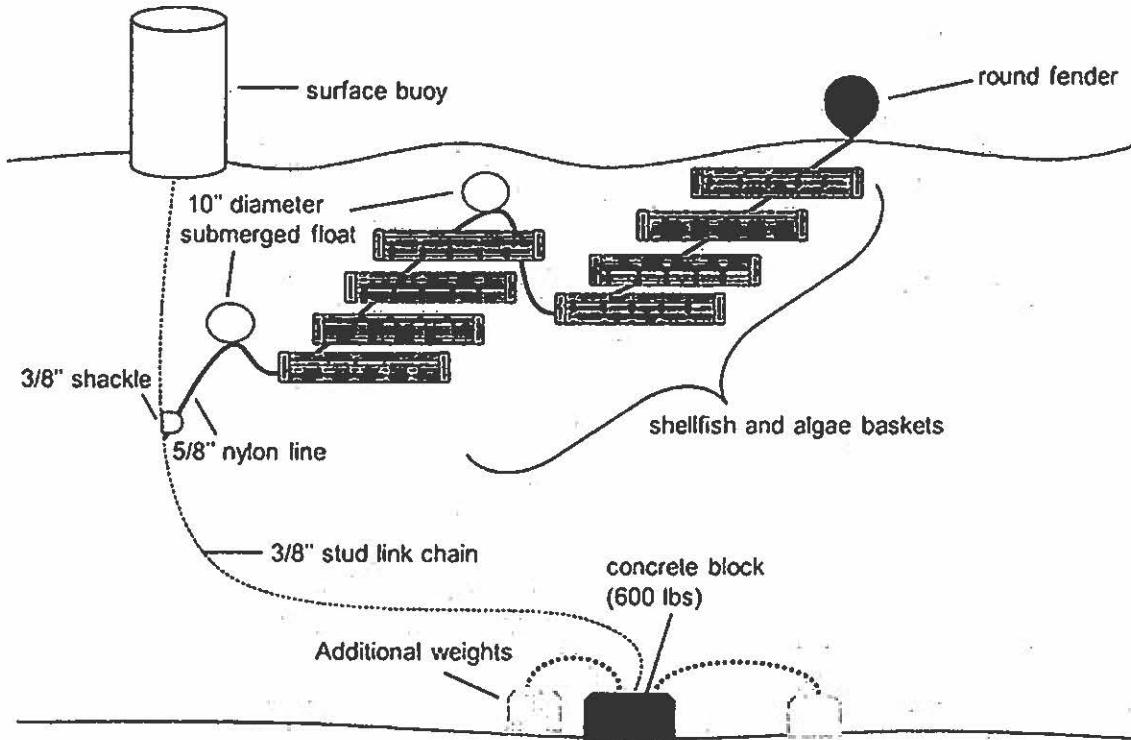
The Applicant would be responsible for compliance with all laws and regulations associated with the activities on or in connection with the above-described premises, and in all uses thereof, including those regulating stormwater and hazardous materials, as well as acquiring necessary permits from relevant 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.

Marine Debris Reduction and Management. Port staff and/or consultants shall carry out operation consistent with the following marine debris reduction and management practices:

- A. **Storm Damage and Debris.** As soon as safely and reasonably possible following storm or severe wind or weather events, Port staff and/or consultants shall patrol each study location for escaped or damaged equipment. All equipment that cannot be repaired and placed back into service shall be properly recycled or disposed of at an appropriate onshore facility. In addition, Port staff and/or consultants shall retrieve or repair any escaped or damaged equipment that it encounters while conducting routine sampling and/or maintenance activities associated with the pilot project. If the escaped gear cannot be repaired and replaced, it shall be properly recycled or disposed of on land.
- B. **Gear Marking and Replacement.** Port staff and/or consultants shall mark all shellfish baskets and floats in an easily identifiable manner with identification information. Markings shall be securely attached and robust enough to remain attached and legible after an extended period in the marine environment (e.g. heat transfer, hot stamp, etching, etc.). Existing floats currently in use shall be marked or replaced with marked versions when replanted and all unmarked gear shall be replaced in this way. In the event that gear, or equipment becomes displaced or dislodged from the experiment, it shall be the Port's responsibility to retrieve the material from the shoreline, open water, eelgrass beds, mudflat, or submerged bottom with minimal damage to the resources affected. Once located, such material shall be removed as soon as feasible and properly disposed of, recycled, or returned to use.
- C. **Ongoing Operations.** Port staff and/or consultants shall not leave or temporarily store tools, loose gear, or construction materials on its leased tidelands or surrounding areas. All study equipment installed on and in use at the study sites shall be kept neat and secure and maintained in functional condition. Port staff and/or consultants shall carry out regular bed inspections and maintenance activities to help ensure that broken, collapsed, fallen, or buried gear is fixed or removed in a timely manner.
- D. **Bed Cleaning at Harvest.** Port staff and/or consultants shall carry out a thorough inspection to locate and remove loose, abandoned or out of use equipment, tools, and accumulations of oysters from the surrounding substrate. Oyster shell shall not be intentionally placed or deposited within the lease outside of cultivation gear, and oysters or oyster shell accidentally spilled during the experiment shall be immediately collected and removed.
- E. **Excessive Gear Loss or Maintenance Failures.** If the Port is found to be responsible for consistently extensive loss of equipment into the marine environment or is consistently failing to maintain its equipment in an intact and serviceable condition, Port staff and/or consultants shall modify its equipment and/or operations to minimize equipment loss and mitigate impacts to affected habitat

Figure 1. Configuration of buoy system to be deployed.



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 (SDUPD), 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)**

Reason Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), 15306 (Information Collection) of the District's Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA 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, 3.d, and 3.f of the District's CEQA Guidelines is as follows:*

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.

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, 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: 2/13/2024 Title: Senior Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

San Diego County



Transaction #: 7617547
Receipt #: 2024051501

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: 02/13/2024
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 02/13/2024 9:30 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 #: 2024-000102 Date: 02/13/2024 9:29AM Pages: 6

State Receipt # 37-02/13/2024-0097

Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee \$50.00

Total Fees Due: \$50.00

Grand Total - All Documents: \$50.00