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Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr. Recorder County Clerk

FEB 25 2019

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C. Mendoza Dominguez

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Notice of Exemption

CEQA Guidelines Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency)
San Diego Unified Port District
Development Services Department
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

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

Project Title: *Geotechnical Survey by NASSCO at Berth 7 and 8*
Project Location – Specific: *2798 Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92106*
Project Location – City: *San Diego*
Project Location – County: *San Diego*

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: *The proposed project would involve a geotechnical survey by General Dynamics NASSCO (Tenant) at Berth 7 and 8 in the city of San Diego, California. The geotechnical survey would create exploratory bore-holes to evaluate the geophysical properties of the bay bottom in the vicinity of a potential future redevelopment site at the NASSCO shipyard. The proposed project does not include the installation of any permanent structures.*

Work to specifically complete the proposed project would include driving five H piles would be driven into the bay bottom with a vibratory hammer at five locations to create exploratory bore-holes immediately alongside Berth 7 and 8, which is entirely within the Tenant's leasehold. The test piles measure 14.21 inches in diameter, in total, occupying a 34.4 square inch area. Each test pile would be driven 30 feet into the bay bottom and would be subsequently removed. Maximum bay floor depth at pile locations (at high tide line) are as follows:

- Pile 1: -17.7 Feet MLLW
- Pile 2: -27.7 Feet MLLW
- Pile 3: -32.7 Feet MLLW
- Pile 4: -26.7 Feet MLLW
- Pile 5: -26.7 Feet MLLW

As discussed above, the proposed project would utilize a vibratory hammer for the installation of test piles, which minimizes noise and sediment disturbance. To reduce bay bottom sediment re-suspension, anchors will be "flown" to locations and recovered vertically and slowly. Additionally, barge spuds would be slowly recovered during barge movement to also reduce bay bottom sediment resuspension. During the geotechnical survey, the contractor would use stormwater Best Management Practices.

Due to the unconsolidated nature of the surficial bay sediments where the test piles would be driven into, it is anticipated that effort to remove the test piles as well as pile driving would be minimal. Furthermore, because the piles would be driven as a test and immediately removed, no net loss of bay bottom habitat is anticipated.

*In June 2018, Merkel & Associates conducted a pre-construction eelgrass *Zostera marina* (essential fish habitat) survey and no eelgrass was identified within or nearby the project area. In addition, all work is planned to be conducted outside of the California Least Tern nesting season. Furthermore, a Protected Species Observer would monitor 15 minutes prior to initiation of pile driving activity through the pile driving activity. Pre-driving monitoring would be conducted for 15 minutes to ensure that the project area and surrounding area is clear of marine mammals, turtles, and other protected species. The piling driving process is expected to last up to two days and a silt curtain would be used around the barge and drive location to contain turbidity.*

Based on the frequency of vessels coming in and out of the active shipyard area and the anticipated level of noise generated from limited and temporary proposed project related in-water pile driving activities, underwater noise

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from vessels moving in and out of the bay and the existing active shipyard area would be comparable to the temporary underwater noise generated from project related in-water pile driving activities. The movement of vessels within the existing marine terminal area would mask the project-related pile driving sound because project-related pile driving sound would generate the same or less amplitude than typical vessel noise for those in the active marine area.

It is anticipated that the project would occur in late 2018 and would take approximately one week in total to complete. All construction would be performed during daylight hours. All construction would be performed during daylight hours. There would be no change in the number of employees, customers, or visitors per day as a result of the project. Due to its nature and limited scope, the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips. Therefore, impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic are not anticipated to occur. Furthermore, the tenant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state and local laws regulating hazards and hazardous materials and stormwater.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sara Giobbi, Environmental Manager, General Dynamics-NASSCO, 2798 Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92113; 619-544-8764

- 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: 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 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and/or 15306 (Information Collection) and Section 3.d. and/or 3.f. of the District's Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA because it is a geotechnical survey that would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, and it is for the purpose of basic data collection/research/experimental management/resource evaluation activities which would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Sections 3.d. and 3.f. 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: Cameron McLeod, (619) 686-6273

Signature: Cameron McLeod Date: 2/13/19 Title: Assistant Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

FEB 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

San Diego County on FEB 25 2019

Posted FEB 25 2019 Removed _____

Returned to agency on _____

Deputy C. Mendoza Dominguez