

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

San Diego County on MAY 10 2019Posted MAY 10 2019 Removed _____

Returned to agency on _____

Deputy J. SamuelaFILED
Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr. Recorder County Clerk

MAY 10 2019

BY J. Samuela
DEPUTY

Notice of Exemption

CEQA Guidelines Appendix E

To: ■ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814From: (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:** *Public Access During the 2019 San Diego Comic Convention***Project Location – Specific:** *Embarcadero Marina Park South, Convention Way, and Harbor Drive in San Diego, CA 92101***Project location – City:** *San Diego***Project Location – County:** *San Diego*

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: *The project is the temporary activities associated with the 2019 San Diego Comic Convention (Comic-Con) event, proposed by Comic-Con International, the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation that manages Comic-Con, and the San Diego Convention Center (SDCC). The proposed project includes public access components, safety and security restrictions, Comic-Con International line queueing and use of Embarcadero Marina Park South (EMPS). The proposed project will occur in the areas surrounding the SDCC, including portions of EMPS, EMPS parking, the public promenade around the perimeter of EMPS, portions of the Embarcadero Promenade, a segment of Harbor Drive, Convention Way, and a segment of the sidewalk in front of the SDCC. The proposed project does not include areas within San Diego Unified Port District (District) leaseholds (i.e., Fifth Avenue Landing (FAL), Hilton San Diego Bayfront (Hilton), and the pending Bayside Performance Park); District staff will ensure adequate public access is maintained in those areas. The event will have an approximate duration of 4.5 days, with two additional days for event setup and breakdown, for a total duration of 6.5 days. During setup and breakdown, public access will be available.*

Public Access to the Waterfront

To ensure public access to the waterfront is maintained and available during the event, the proposed project includes the following public access components.

- *During the event, public pedestrian access to the waterfront will be provided via Marina Walk between the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego (Hyatt) and Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina (Marriott) hotels, Canyon Path between the Marriott hotel and SDCC, the public Pedestrian Bridge along Park Boulevard, and the sidewalk along the southside of Convention Way next to the Hilton hotel. Although not part of the project area, public pedestrian access will also be available via the Martin Luther King (MLK) Promenade on the east side of Harbor Drive.*
- *At no times will the event prohibit pedestrian public access to the existing public fishing pier, water ferry, two eateries, and the public promenade around the perimeter of EMPS.*
- *During the event, vehicular public access to the waterfront, public fishing pier, adjacent businesses, and to limited public parking (available on a first come first served basis) will be available via Convention Way. Comic-Con International will provide their on-site event staff (Comic-Con event staff and/or contracted staff and/or security) with this information.*

- Comic-Con International will continue to provide on-site line management to monitor the lines during the event to ensure public access is available to portions of the public promenade around the perimeter of EMPS and the Embarcadero Promenade.
- Comic-Con International will place ground decals on the northern segment of the public promenade along the entry roadway to EMPS to distinguish the public access routes from the temporary line queueing, and to ensure public access is available.
- A minimum of 31 parking spaces at EMPS shall be available for public use on a first come first served basis, including dedicated spaces for public fishing pier users. During the event, Comic-Con on-site contracted staff and/or security will be located at the entrance of Convention Way and the EMPS parking lot to communicate, with each other and to the public, the availability of public parking spaces, and accessibility to the public fishing pier and adjacent businesses. Comic-Con International will provide their on-site event staff with this information. Furthermore, Comic-Con will post signage indicating "limited public parking available on a first come first served basis." The signage will be placed with Comic-Con on-site contracted staff and/or security who will be located both at the entrance of Convention Way and the EMPS parking lot.
- During the event there will be no rideshare zones designated within EMPS.
- No later than 30 days prior to the start of the event, SDCC will post on their website and include in all applicable promotional materials (i.e., press releases, FAQs, and information brochures) available vehicular and pedestrian public accessways to the waterfront. Comic-Con International will provide links to this information on their webpage and will provide this information to their on-site event staff.
- Comic-Con International will post public access signage indicating "bay access" to direct pedestrians to the waterfront during the event. The public access signage will be located at Marina Walk between the Marriott and Hyatt hotels, at Canyon Path between the Marriott hotel and SDCC, at the Pedestrian Bridge, and at the entrance to EMPS.
- During the event, Comic-Con International, SDCC, District staff, and California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff will meet on site. After walking the site, Comic-Con International, SDCC, District staff, and CCC staff may agree to additional or revised public access components that will be memorialized in a future Coastal Development Permit for public access during Comic-Con beginning in 2020.
- Within 60 days after the event is complete, SDCC, on behalf of Comic-Con International, will submit to the District a public access report that demonstrates portions of the Embarcadero Promenade, the promenade around the perimeter of EMPS, and EMPS; Convention Way; public parking; the public fishing pier; water ferry; and two eateries were accessible to the public (pedestrians and vehicles, as appropriate) during the event. The report will include proof, such as video clips or photographs, documenting such public accessibility and adequate placement of public access signage.

Safety and Security Restrictions

For safety and security purposes, a partial segment of Harbor Drive, from First Street to Park Boulevard, will be temporarily restricted to Comic-Con shuttle loading and unloading, prepaid parking pass holders, emergency vehicles, and Americans with Disabilities access (i.e., no general public vehicles). This restriction will be temporary and occur starting on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a maximum of 7 hours; Thursday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a maximum of 15 hours; and, Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a maximum of 13 hours. However, Harbor Drive may be re-opened earlier than these stated times and durations when deemed safe by public safety officials. Market Street will be the primary detour for general public vehicles. No later than 30 days prior to the start of the event, SDCC will post the vehicular route detours on their website and include it in all applicable promotional materials (i.e., press releases, FAQs, and information brochures).

In addition, a portion of the sidewalk fronting SDCC will be temporarily restricted to Comic-Con badge-holders only (i.e., no general public) on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a maximum of 7 hours; Thursday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a maximum of 15 hours; and, Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a maximum of 13 hours. Similar to the Harbor Drive street segment, the sidewalk in front of SDCC may be re-opened

earlier than these stated times and durations when deemed safe by public safety officials. During the temporary sidewalk restriction times, general public pedestrians will be redirected to use the MLK Promenade. The SDCC, Plaza Park adjacent to the SDCC, and the sidewalk behind the SDCC between SDCC and Convention Way will be restricted to Comic-Con badge-members only.

Comic-Con Line Queueing and Use of EMPS

Comic-Con International will utilize a portion of EMPS for Comic-Con line queueing and reserve 79 EMPS parking spaces for event vendors, equipment storage, portable restrooms, production area, and trash dumpsters. The District will issue a Park Permit for Comic-Con International's use of EMPS and reservation of parking spaces. Portions of the public promenade around the perimeter of EMPS and the Embarcadero Promenade may be partially used for line queueing, on a temporary basis, but a portion will always remain open to the general public. Comic-Con International will continue to seek ways to reduce line queueing on the public promenades. Any Comic-Con attractions that occur in EMPS within the project area (which does not include the pending Bayside Performance Park leasehold) will be free of charge and open to the general public, subject to occupancy. If there are none, the park space will remain open to the general public.

At minimum, 31 parking spaces at EMPS will be available for public use on a first come first served basis, including dedicated spaces for public fishing pier users. At no times will the proposed project prohibit pedestrian public access to the existing public fishing pier, water ferry, two eateries, and the public promenade around the perimeter of EMPS. During the event, vehicular public access to the waterfront, public fishing pier, adjacent businesses, and to limited public parking (available on a first come first served basis) will be available via Convention Way.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Fae Desmond, San Diego Comic Convention, 225 Broadway, Suite 1800, San Diego, California 92101; (619) 414- 1020; and, Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe, San Diego Convention Center Corporation, 111 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, California 92101; (619) 525-5101

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) and Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (SG § 15323) (Class 23)**
- ☐ 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 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings) and Section 3.d (6) of the District's Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA because it is a temporary event that would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, would not have any permanent effects on the environment, and would consist of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings. Section 3.d (6) of the District's CEQA Guidelines and CEQA Guidelines Section 15323 are as follows:

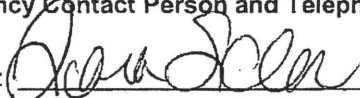
3.d. **Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4):** Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, but not limited to:

(6) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

AND/OR

Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (SG § 15323) (Class 23): Consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. For the purposes of this section, "past history" shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. Facilities included within this exemption include, but are not limited to, racetracks, stadiums, convention centers, auditoriums, amphitheaters, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.

Lead Agency Contact Person and Telephone Number: Dana Sclar, (619) 400 - 4765

Signature:  Date: 5/9/19 Title: Senior Planner

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR/Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 16 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2019 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (Rev. 2/7/19) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:

37-2019- 0350

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

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DATE

05/10/2019

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

San Diego County

DOCUMENT NUMBER

2019 - 0350

PROJECT TITLE

PUBLIC ACCESS DURING THE 2019 SAN DIEGO COMIC CONVENTION

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

SAN DIEGO COMIC CONVENTION/SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

--

PHONE NUMBER

619-414-1020 / 619-525-5101

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

225 BROADWAY, SUITE 1800 / 111 WEST HARBOR DR

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:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

\$3,271.00

\$

☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)

\$2,354.75

\$

☐ Certified Regulatory Program document (CRP)

\$1,112.00

\$

☐ 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

\$

☒ County documentary handling fee

\$

\$50.00

☐ Other

\$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash

☒ Credit

☐ Check

☐ Other VC#91174613

TOTAL RECEIVED

\$

\$50.00

SIGNATURE

X

JSAMUELA

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

San Diego County

JSAMUELA

, Deputy

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 16 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE





San Diego County



Transaction #: 3754519
Receipt #: 2019205614

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: 05/10/2019
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 05/10/2019 4:39 pm

Payment Summary

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

Payment

VITALCHEK PAYMENT	\$50.00
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Total Payments	\$50.00
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Miscellaneous Item

FISH & WILDLIFE FEES

Fees:	Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee	\$50.00
Total Fees Due:		\$50.00

Grand Total - All Documents:	\$50.00
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research
MAY 16 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE