

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
 FAX (415) 904-5400

**W 11**

**ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**JUNE 11, 2014 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director**  
**Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency**

**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>9-14-0217-W</b> Southern California Gas Co.	Remove and replace approximately 1400 ft. of two-inch diameter steel gas pipeline and 19 ft. of one-inch diameter gas pipeline on the Harford Pier in Avila Beach.	Harford Pier, Avila Beach

**NEGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>ND-0012-14</b> U.S. Air Force	Five-Year Maintenance Dredging Plan Action: <b>Concur, 5/7/2014</b>	Vandenberg Air Force Base Point Arguello Harbor Santa Barbara County
<b>ND-0013-14</b> National Park Service	Upgrade Beaches Water System Action: <b>Concur, 5/20/2014</b>	Point Reyes National Seashore Marin County



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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**  
**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

**DATE:** June 3, 2014 **PERMIT NO. 9-14-0217-W**

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

**Applicant:** Southern California Gas Company  
1171 More Ranch Rd.  
Goleta, CA 93111-2910

**Project Description:** The applicant proposes to remove and replace approximately 1400 feet of two inch diameter steel gas pipeline and approximately 19 feet of one inch diameter gas pipeline on the Harford Pier in Avila Beach. The new pipeline would be installed adjacent to the old pipeline on pier pilings for roughly 1200 feet and on hangers on the underside of the pier for roughly 200 feet. Once the new pipeline has been installed, the old one will be removed and disposed of offsite. Pipeline installation and removal activities on the pier will require the applicant to install scaffolding on the pier to support personnel and materials. No heavy vehicles or construction equipment will be used on the pier during pipeline installation or removal. In addition, a 30 foot trench is proposed to be excavated from a paved area at the base of the pier to access the onshore supply pipeline tie-in site. A total of 19 cubic yards of soil and asphalt would be removed to construct this trench and one of the two vehicle access lanes on the pier would be temporarily closed. Once the new pipeline is attached to the existing onshore supply line, the trench would be backfilled and resurfaced. Project work is expected to require up to 40 days. All project staging and vehicle storage will take place in the Port San Luis maintenance and long term storage yards.

**Waiver Rationale:** For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act.

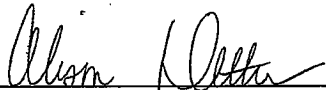
- Tarps will be placed under all pipeline work areas to capture materials that become dislodged from the pier or pipelines during installation or removal. All captured material will be collected and removed; no material will be intentionally discharged or released into marine waters. Any materials that accidentally fall into marine waters will be immediately collected and removed.
- All excavated soil will be stockpiled onsite in a paved area away from coastal waters, covered, and secured to prevent erosion or discharge.
- Pedestrian access to the pier will not be limited during the proposed work.
- All project staging and vehicle storage will take place in the Port San Luis maintenance and long term storage yards, and will not impair public access to the beach or pier. No public parking areas will be used for project activities.

**Important:** This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of June 11 – 13, 2014, in Huntington Beach. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_



ALISON J. DETTMER  
Deputy Director

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# W11

**DATE:** May 28, 2014

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Charles Lester, Executive Director  
Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director  
Mark Delaplaine, Manager, Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal  
Consistency Division

**RE:** Negative Determinations Issued by the Executive Director  
[Executive Director decision letters are attached]

<b>PROJECT #:</b>	ND-0012-14
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	U.S. Air Force
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Vandenberg Air Force Base Point Arguello Harbor, Santa Barbara Co.
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Five-Year Maintenance Dredging Plan
<b>ACTION:</b>	Concur
<b>ACTION DATE:</b>	5/7/2014

<b>PROJECT #:</b>	ND-0013-14
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	National Park Service
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Co.
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Upgrade Beaches Water System
<b>ACTION:</b>	Concur
<b>ACTION DATE:</b>	5/20/2014

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May 7, 2014

Beatrice L. Kephart  
Chief, Installation Management Flight  
30 CES/CEI  
1028 Iceland Avenue  
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-6010

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0012-14 (Five-Year Maintenance Dredging Plan at VAFB Harbor, Santa Barbara County)

Dear Ms. Kephart:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The Air Force proposes to implement a five-year maintenance dredging plan at the Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) harbor. In 2001 the Commission concurred with consistency determination CD-035-01 for harbor dredging at VAFB, and in 2002 the Commission's Executive Director concurred with negative determination ND-082-02 for harbor maintenance dredging at VAFB. The Executive Director concurred with negative determinations ND-096-03 and ND-048-08 for five-year harbor maintenance dredging programs in December 2003 and September 2008, respectively. These dredging projects were necessary to support the Delta IV evolved expendable launch vehicle program at VAFB, which includes the transport of booster rockets and other equipment via ocean-going ships to the base harbor. The proposed five-year maintenance dredging plan would allow up to two dredging projects per year. A dock-mounted and/or barge-mounted clamshell dredge would remove up to 10,000 cubic yards of sediment and place the material on the dock for dewatering. The sediment would then be transported by truck and stockpiled in an old quarry site maintained by the Air Force at Pt. Pedernales on south VAFB.

The proposed dredging included in the proposed five-year maintenance dredging plan is similar to the previous five-year plan and will similarly not create significant adverse effects on coastal resources. The project will not affect public access and recreation as the harbor area is closed to the public due to military security restrictions. Dredging impacts on marine resources will be temporary and not significant, and a silt curtain will be installed to protect kelp beds at the breakwater from any dredging turbidity plumes. Testing of harbor sediments for previous five-year dredging programs established that these materials are not contaminated and accumulate due to the down coast movement of clean sand. Additional sampling of harbor sediments will

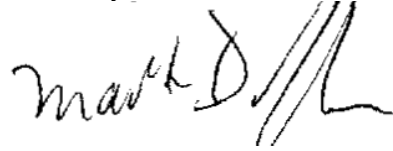
occur during the 2014 harbor survey prior to maintenance dredging. Biological monitoring of special status wildlife will occur during each dredging event per the requirements of the August 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Biological Opinion* and the June 2003 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) *Incidental Harassment Authorization*. The 2001 *Biological Opinion* is valid for the life of the Delta IV program unless a substantial modification to the program occurs (such modifications are not proposed in the subject negative determination). Dredging operations were incorporated into VAFB's Letter of Authorization from the NMFS that also supports launch and flight operations. The current authorization is valid through March 26, 2019. Implementation of the project's Kelp Mitigation Plan, Water Quality Mitigation Plan, and Spill Prevention Plan will further serve to protect marine habitat and water quality during maintenance dredging.

In the aforementioned consistency and negative determinations for VAFB harbor dredging, the Commission agreed with the Air Force that removing small volumes of clean sand from the littoral system during those maintenance dredging projects would not significantly affect sand supply along this stretch of the Santa Barbara County coastline. However, in ND-096-03 the Commission noted that the Air Force was investigating a nearshore beach replenishment option for sediment disposal during future maintenance dredging projects. The Air Force committed to implementing the nearshore disposal option for dredged sediments if such an option was determined feasible. If the option was not feasible, the Air Force committed to provide the Commission's Executive Director an explanation.

In ND-048-08 and in the subject negative determination, the Air Force summarized its investigation of two nearshore disposal options. One option involved hydraulically pumping dredged sediments through a suction tube sitting on the ocean floor to the closest beach suitable for replenishment, approximately one mile south of the harbor. The Air Force determined that strong tides and surf would disturb the tube if placed without anchors, the ocean floor comprised of exposed bedrock would not allow for secure anchoring of the tube, and anchoring for one mile through turbulent waters along a rocky shoreline was impractical. The second option involved transporting dredged material via barge approximately 25 miles south to the beach at Gaviota State Park. The Air Force determined that the excessive cost of this alternative would render it impractical and likely ineffective, particularly given that earlier Gaviota State Park beach nourishment efforts did not withstand tidal effects and replenished sands soon washed away. The Air Force concluded that beach replenishment using the small volumes of dredged materials from the VAFB harbor is not feasible and likely to be ineffective.

In conclusion, the Commission staff agrees that the proposed five-year maintenance dredging program at Vandenberg Air Force Base harbor will not adversely affect coastal resources. In addition, under the federal consistency regulations, a negative determination can be submitted for an activity "which is the same as or similar to activities for which consistency determinations have been prepared in the past." The proposed project is similar to dredging projects at VAFB concurred with by the Commission in CD-035-01 and by the Executive Director in ND-082-02, ND-096-03, and ND-048-08. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Larry Simon at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Lester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

(for) CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director

cc: CCC – Central Coast District

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May 20, 2014

Cicely Muldoon  
Superintendent  
ATTN: David Brouillette  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0013-14 (Upgrade to Beaches Water System, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County)

Dear Ms. Muldoon:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced project. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to upgrade the Beaches Water System at Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). The system provides potable water to several public facilities and private ranches in the western part of the Seashore, and includes wells, buried concrete water tanks, and buried concrete pipelines that connect the wells, tanks, and delivery points. The goal of the proposed upgrade is to resolve current health and safety concerns, improve year-round access to the facilities, and improve system maintenance and operations by adding a supervisory control and data acquisition system. The proposed upgrades would occur in four separate locations along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard: F Ranch, North Beach Chlorination Shed, the 20,000-gallon water tank area, and the 50,000-gallon water tank area.

The NPS states that the majority of the proposed work will occur at the F Ranch site and includes the following elements: placing gravel on the current dirt access road to ensure that water wells can be maintained or repaired during the wet season; installing a culvert where this road currently crosses a drainage swale; removing and replacing a section of exposed water pipeline; installing a water meter adjacent to the existing chlorination facility; adding an overhead phone line onto existing power poles; and expanding the chlorination building to house an emergency back-up propane-powered generator. The NPS will remove the obsolete North Beach Chlorination Shed, relocate the associated piping, meters, and valves to a new underground vault adjacent to the North Beach access road, and restore the shed site and the 240-foot-long dirt access road to the site. At the 20,000-gallon water tank area, a new concrete stairway will be constructed at ground level down 12 feet below the surface to allow subterranean access to the tank control valves, the tank will be cleaned and inspected, and 30 square-feet (sq.ft.) of crushed rock will be placed at the tank drain outfall to protect the device from cattle trampling. At the 50,000-gallon water tank area, hardware will be removed and installed, the tank cleaned and inspected, and 30 sq.ft. of crushed rock placed at the outfall pipe to protect it from cattle damage. All four work sites are within or adjacent to cattle pastures a short distance off of Sir Francis

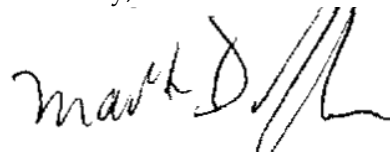


Drake Boulevard. Vehicle and equipment access to the work sites will be via existing paved and unpaved vehicle routes. Construction is expected to take 10 to 12 weeks and will occur between June and October 2014.

The NPS states that wetlands at the F Ranch and North Beach Chlorination Shed work sites are characterized as swales that are seasonally saturated by precipitation or seeps, with a seasonally high groundwater table in very sandy soils, and with vegetation dominated by rush and sedge species. Upland coastal scrub vegetation is also present at the two work sites. Approximately 2,162 sq.ft. of this type of wetland habitat would be permanently disturbed at the F Ranch site due to the proposed gravel addition to the existing access road (i.e., the replacement of natural dirt/grass surface area with gravel). To mitigate this impact, the NPS will restore the 2,487 sq.ft. footprint of the existing dirt access road at the to-be-removed North Beach Chlorination Shed area to wetland habitat functionally equivalent to the habitat present in the F Ranch dirt access road in terms of vegetation, aquatic functions, hydrology, topography, and soils. A mitigation, monitoring, and maintenance plan for the restoration site was submitted with the negative determination. The NPS will also prepare and implement Erosion and Sediment Control, Waste Management, and Spill Prevention and Response plans, along with best management practices and general avoidance and minimization measures. For the proposed project the NPS received a Nationwide Permit No. 3 (maintenance) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification from the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, a Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and prepared a NEPA Categorical Exclusion.

The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed upgrade to the Beaches Water System at Point Reyes National Seashore will not adversely affect coastal resources. Construction activities will result in minor, short-term impacts to physical and biological resources. Permanent impacts to 0.05 acres of wetland habitat at the F Ranch will be mitigated by restoration of wetland habitat at the North Beach Chlorination Shed area. This wetland impact will not adversely affect coastal resources and the project will lead to improved protection of water quality and the removal of antiquated infrastructure in the Seashore. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Larry Simon at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

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(for) CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director

cc: CCC – North Central Coast District  
Dale Dualan, Point Reyes National Seashore  
Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District