

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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

**W 4**

DATE: January 15, 2008

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Fuchs, Manager, Statewide Planning and Federal Consistency Division
Mark Delaplaine, Federal Consistency Supervisor

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

PROJECT #:	ND-066-07
APPLICANT:	National Park Service, Channel Islands National Park
LOCATION:	Bechers Bay, north side of Santa Rosa Island
PROJECT:	Pier replacement
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	12/11/2007

PROJECT #:	ND-069-07
APPLICANT:	National Park Service
LOCATION:	Zuma Canyon, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Los Angeles Co.
PROJECT:	Riparian/coastal sage scrub habitat restoration
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	12/19/2007

PROJECT #:	ND-070-07
APPLICANT:	U.S. Coast Guard
LOCATION:	Station Los Angeles/Long Beach, Terminal Island, San Pedro, Los Angeles Co.
PROJECT:	Install boat mooring
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	12/20/2007

PROJECT #:	ND-072-07
APPLICANT:	U.S. Coast Guard
LOCATION:	Station Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co.
PROJECT:	Install microwave dishes
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	1/3/2008

PROJECT #:	ND-073-07
APPLICANT:	Federal Aviation Administration
LOCATION:	Santa Barbara Airport, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co.
PROJECT:	Repair and replacement of underground electrical cables for weather instruments
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	1/2/2008

PROJECT #:	ND-074-07
APPLICANT:	Department of the Navy
LOCATION:	Naval Base San Diego, City of San Diego.
PROJECT:	Building demolition and property lease
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	1/3/2008

PROJECT #:	ND-076-07
APPLICANT:	Natural Resources Conservation Service
LOCATION:	Salinas River Watershed
PROJECT:	One year extension of Watershed Improvements Permit Coordination Program
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	1/2/2008

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December 11, 2007

Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.
Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
National Park Service
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001

RE: Negative Determination **ND-066-07** (Pier replacement, Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park)

Dear Mr. Galipeau:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above referenced negative determination. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to demolish and replace the pier within Bechers Bay on Santa Rosa Island, an administrative unit of Channel Islands National Park, located approximately 40 miles west of Ventura. Primary access to Santa Rosa Island by the public and the NPS is via the pier, which accommodates approximately 700 vessel landings per year. The 574-foot long pier was originally constructed in the late 1800s and subsequently rebuilt three times, most recently in 1987. NPS conducted emergency repairs in 2002 and 2004 to replace failing piles, though these repairs provided only 5 years of additional service. NPS states that the pier is currently in an advanced state of deterioration, posing safety concerns to park staff and visitors.

NPS has identified replacement of the pier as the Environmentally Superior Alternative through the analysis presented in the project Environmental Assessment (EA), released in August 2007. The new pier would measure the same length and be sited within the existing pier's footprint. The height of the pier would be increased from 16' to 23' above MLLW level, and the end of the pier, where loading occurs, would be widened from 40 to 50 feet. New fender piles would be installed along three sides of the pier. The existing deck support piles would be replaced with approximately 60 new 18-24" diameter protective-coated steel piles to ensure long-term structural integrity. No pile driving would occur; instead the piles would be drilled into the substrate using an auger drill bit to scrape out the holes within 3' diameter outer casings placed to capture drill cuttings. The piles would then be secured in cement grout approximately 15' below the surface of the marine substrate.

Construction of the pier would take place during the summer and fall seasons over two consecutive years. As a result, access via the pier would be prevented for a period of up to 12 months total. However, public access to Santa Rosa Island would still be available by aircraft or via skiff transport from an offshore boat during construction, although this may limit the ability of some to access the island in a safe or affordable manner. Long-term impacts to public access

will be beneficial as the new pier will improve the ability for all visitors to access the island safely.

Best management practices will be implemented during construction to minimize turbidity and water quality impacts around the pier as well as reduce impacts from land, such as runoff. Prior to construction, NPS has agreed to submit to the Executive Director a hazardous spill contingency plan that incorporates oil containment and spill clean-up and notification procedures as well as procedures for the storage and handling of hazardous materials. Refueling facilities will be located in an appropriate containment area onshore. To reduce runoff, removed pier materials would be stockpiled and covered within an impermeable tarp in a previously disturbed area on the island before being transported to the mainland for proper disposal. In addition, the NPS proposes to install a trench drain and gravel swales alongside the access road leading down to the pier to minimize erosion and control stormwater runoff. A natural ephemeral stream enters Bechers Bay near the pier, leading to increased natural turbidity levels. Turbidity impacts from the removal and installation of the piles are expected to be minimal with the installation of the outer casings around the piles. No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to occur to sensitive marine habitats, including eelgrass, as the closest eelgrass beds are located $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the pier.

Noise impacts from the project are projected to be reduced below the NMFS-recommended marine mammal effects threshold of 160 dB at approximately 70 feet from the pier. Marine mammals are not known to frequent the area and are not expected to as the seafloor is relatively shallow in Bechers Bay. However, a qualified biological monitor will visually survey the area the day before the start of drilling operations. A marine mammal monitor will observe the area from work boats or a separate vessel during project activities and enforce a 100 meter safety zone around the project site. Drilling activities will commence with a 15-second ramp-up period following by a 1-minute waiting period repeated three times total to reduce the likelihood of sudden acoustic impacts on marine mammals nearby.

Impacts from lighting on seabirds and marine species are expected to be minimal. Work will occur during daylight hours only. Permanent pier lighting fixtures will be kept to a minimum and shielded so that illumination is directed downward.

In conclusion, the Coastal Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed NPS pier replacement at Bechers Bay on Santa Rosa Island will not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Christina Cairns at (415) 396-9708 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



(KWD)
PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: CCC – Central Coast District Office
Rodney McInnis, National Marine Fisheries Service
Diane Noda, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.



Mark DeLaphaine

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December 19, 2007

Woody Smeck
Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
401 W. Hillcrest Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-4207

RE: Negative Determination **ND-069-07** (National Park Service, Zuma Canyon Restoration, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Los Angeles County)

Dear Mr. Smeck:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above referenced negative determination. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to remove 4.5 acres of abandoned avocado trees and non-native plant species along a 200-foot-long buffer area alongside Zuma Creek and restore the area with native riparian and coastal sage scrub species. The project site is located within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) in lower Zuma Canyon in Malibu and work is scheduled to commence in February 2008. The abandonment of the avocado orchard has led to soil erosion, facilitated the introduction of invasive plant species (including fennel, smilo grass, and Harding grass), degraded riparian habitat and water quality in Zuma Creek, and has created a fire hazard. NPS staff concluded in its environmental review that the proposed restoration would ecologically benefit lower Zuma Canyon and qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act. All other necessary approvals and permits have been obtained for this project.

NPS staff would use hand and mechanical removal methods and herbicides to remove non-native plants. Mechanical removal of non-native weeds would entail the use of weed cutters; avocado trees would be removed with chainsaws and mulched using a wood chipping machine. Herbicide application would only be employed by trained staff when manual or mechanical removal methods fail to eradicate difficult species. Herbicides would not be applied within 50 feet of Zuma Creek or its tributaries.¹ Once vegetation is removed, NPS would employ both paid and volunteer staff to coordinate the restoration work. Student volunteers from the local Los Angeles Unified School District would participate in the restoration effort (e.g., weed-pulling, native plant installation, and site cleanup) during one-day field trips to the site. Adult monitors would be present during all student restoration activities, and at least 2 NPS staff members, including a biologist or ecologist, would be present to assist and educate the volunteers. Native plants and

¹ Phone discussion with Christy Brigham, NPS Staff, on Dec. 17, 2007.

seeds used in revegetating the site will be gathered from the immediate area as well as similar habitats within a 40-mile radius of the project site.

While seven acres of land dominated by exotic species in lower Zuma Canyon are in need of restoration, the NPS proposes to restore only 4.5 acres under this project. The proposed restoration activities would occur over a two-year period, based on previous work completed at a similar site in Solstice Canyon. The project would not interfere with public access to or recreational activities within the lower Zuma Canyon area of the SMMNRA. The NPS would use best management practices to protect against release of any hazardous materials within the project area and will not park vehicles on the restoration site or re-fuel vehicles near any waterway.

The Commission staff agrees that the proposed restoration project at lower Zuma Canyon within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore concur with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Christina Cairns of the Coastal Commission staff at 415-396-9708 or ccairns@coastal.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: Ventura District Office

Mark Delaplaine

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December 20, 2007

Dave Stalters
Chief, Environmental Division
U.S. Coast Guard
2000 Embarcadero, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94606-5337

Subject: Negative Determination **ND-070-07**, Installation of Mediterranean Mooring at Station Los Angeles/Long Beach Boat Basin, Terminal Island - San Pedro, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Stalters:

The Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is seeking authorization through the negative determination process to install a fourth Mediterranean Mooring at the Station Los Angeles/Long Beach Boat Basin on Terminal Island in San Pedro. The existing boat basin was reconfigured in 2000 with three Mediterranean Moorings as part of a floating dock replacement project, for which a negative determination was granted (ND-120-99). This fourth, additional mooring would provide berth space for a 41-foot long vessel and is needed to enhance the station's operational functions.

Under the proposed project, two steel piles will be installed to serve as the mooring, one as a bow pile and the other as a stern guide pile that will be attached to the existing floating dock. The two piles will be driven 30 feet below the mud line using a diesel-powered pile hammer mounted on a derrick barge. A wood cushioning block and bubble curtain will be employed to attenuate noise impacts from pile driving, and a silt curtain will also be used to contain turbidity in the surrounding water column during the one day of pile driving. The proposed activity involves no dredging, there are no known threatened or endangered species or sensitive aquatic habitats in the project area, and construction impacts will be temporary and minimal. Public access to the USCG base and dock is not allowed due to military security and public safety. The one-week construction project is scheduled to occur between January 1 and April 15, 2008, and includes one day of in-water work.

In conclusion, the Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed mooring installation would not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please feel free to contact Christina Cairns at (415) 396-9708 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Douglas", written in a cursive style.

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: Long Beach District Office
California Department of Water Resources
Governor's Washington, D.C., Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

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January 3, 2008

Dave Stalters
Chief, Environmental Division
U.S. Coast Guard
2000 Embarcadero, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94606-5337

Subject: Negative Determination **ND-072-07**, Installation of Two Microwave Dishes at Station Bodega Bay, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Stalters:

The Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is seeking authorization through the negative determination process to install two (2) new microwave dishes at the Station Bodega Bay in Sonoma County to improve the existing USCG Bay Area Communications System (BACS). The BACS network carries data and communications circuits to support USCG search and rescue missions, law enforcement, and vessel traffic services in and around the Bay Area. The USCG states that the existing network is limited and must be upgraded to support the needs of new, more modern applications that require high data carrying capacity.

The proposed upgrade requires that the two 50 inch by 30 inch microwave dishes be installed on the exterior of the building, one above the existing watch tower roofline (28 feet above elevation) and the other below the roofline. The equipment will be painted gray to blend into the surrounding landscape and minimize any visual impacts.

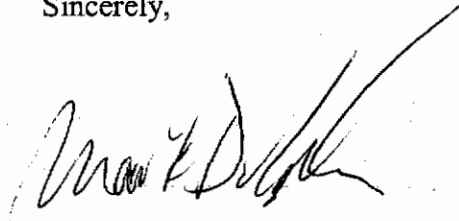
The USCG Station at Bodega Bay is located near the mouth of the Bodega Bay estuary which supports several endangered and threatened species, including the western snowy plover, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, and California brown pelican. No sensitive habitats exist within the boundaries of the Station Bodega Bay. The USCG determined, with concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,¹ that the installation of the dishes would not adversely affect any listed species as it would occur within the existing Station Bodega Bay footprint and would not emit any noise, light, or other pollution. Construction noise from the drilling and mounting of the equipment to the concrete structure would be temporary and minimal. Public access to the USCG Station is prohibited for security reasons.

In conclusion, the Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed microwave dish installation would not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination

¹ Email from Ryan Olah, USFWS, to Amanda Velasquez, USCG, on November 21, 2007.

made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please feel free to contact Christina Cairns at (415) 396-9708 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter M. Douglas", with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

(for)

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: North Central Coast District Office
California Department of Water Resources
Governor's Washington, D.C., Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District

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January 2, 2008

Charles G. Mullikin
FAA Supervisor, SBA SSC
Federal Aviation Administration
10 Burns Place
Goleta, CA 93117

Subject: Negative Determination ND-073-07 (installation of underground electrical cables at Santa Barbara Airport, Santa Barbara Co.)

Dear Mr. Mullikin:

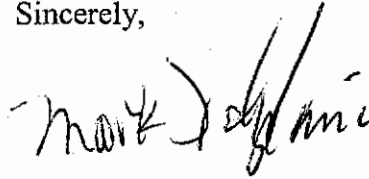
The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes to install a replacement electrical connection between two existing flight data weather stations and an existing radar station at Santa Barbara Airport. In May 2004 the Commission concurred with consistency determination CD-010-04 for construction of a new advanced flight surveillance radar station (ASR-11) on airport property within a filled section of Goleta Slough. The ASR-11 became operational in November 2006 and the ASR-8 radar which it replaced will be decommissioned within the next year. However, the ASR-8 currently provides electricity to the two weather stations located south of the main runway, and replacement electrical lines must be installed to connect these stations with the power source at ASR-11 before ASR-8 can be shut down.

The replacement electrical cable lines will be placed in a trench 14 inches wide and no deeper than 32 inches; approximately 1,390 feet of the trench will be located within an existing gravel access road and within the existing gravel pad of the ASR-11 radar station. Approximately 320 feet of the trench will extend across previously filled Coastal Act wetlands dominated by invasive bermuda grass and pampas grass. This element of the project would temporarily affect 375 square-feet of wetland habitat (due to the trench) and permanently affect 7.5 square-feet of habitat (where the underground cable breaks the ground surface to separately connect with the two weather stations). The temporary construction corridor (including the trench and adjacent soil stockpile area) will be reseeded with wetland species grown at an existing native plant nursery located on the airport property; this facility has supplied native wetland seeds and plants for previous airport restoration projects. In addition, 4:1 mitigation for the permanent impacts would involve removal of invasive, non-native species (e.g., pampas and Bermuda grasses) adjacent to the construction corridor and seeding these areas with native wetland plants suitable to these drier sections of the Goleta Slough.

The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed electrical cable installation project will not adversely affect coastal resources. In addition, under the federal consistency regulations (Section

15 CFR 930.35), 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 the FAA's consistency determination CD-010-04 (ASR-11 installation) which the CCC previously concurred with in May 2004. We therefore concur with your negative determination made pursuant to Section 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 "Mark Douglas", written over a horizontal line.

(for)

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: CCC – South Central Coast District
California Department of Water Resources
Governor's Washington, D.C., Office
John Moer, Parsons

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January 3, 2008

John LeBaron
Commander, U.S. Navy
Public Works Officer
Naval Base San Diego
3455 Senn Road
San Diego, CA 92136-5084

Subject: Negative Determination ND-074-07 (Building 78 Demolition and property lease, Naval Base San Diego)

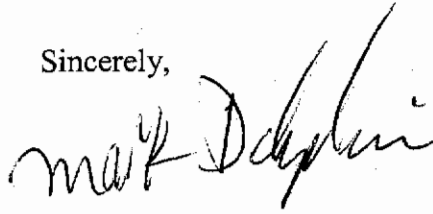
Dear Commander LeBaron:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The U.S. Navy proposes to demolish Building 78 at Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) and lease the 4.81-acre parcel on which the building occupies to National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO). The subject parcel is located adjacent to NASSCO's shipyard where NASSCO is constructing new supply ships for the Navy. The parcel would be redeveloped to include a three-foot-thick concrete slab to be used for outfitting and storing ship hull blocks. The proposed property lease would improve construction efficiency in the current Navy/NASSCO shipbuilding program. Tenants of Building 78 would be relocated to several existing buildings at NBSD and at Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado. Interior renovations would occur at these buildings and minor exterior modifications would occur at NAB Building 326.

Public access and recreation will not be affected by the proposed project as NBSD and NAB Coronado are closed to the public due to military security restrictions. The project does not involve any in-water construction. Surface water from the renovated lease parcel would be routed into the NASSCO storm drain collection system, which discharges into the City of San Diego municipal sanitary sewer. There will be no runoff from the lease parcel into San Diego Bay. Special conservation measures will be implemented to avoid any potential hazardous waste impacts (arising from asbestos abatement and lead-based paint removal) that could occur during building demolition.

The Coastal Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed project will not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to Section 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 "Peter M. Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "D".

(f0N)

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: Kathryn Ostapuk, U.S. Navy
CCC – San Diego Coast District
California Department of Water Resources
Governor's Washington, D.C., Office

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January 2, 2008

Robert LaFleur
District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
744-A LaGuardia Street
Salinas, CA 93905

Subject: Negative Determination ND-076-07 (Salinas River Watershed Improvements Permit Coordination Program, Monterey Co.)

Dear Mr. LaFleur:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposes to extend the five-year general consistency determination (CD-096-01) for the Salinas River Watershed Improvements Permit Coordination Program, previously concurred with by the Commission in March 2002. The program enables private landowners to implement small restoration projects that reduce soil erosion, enhance and restore habitat, and improve water quality on and adjacent to agricultural and rural residential lands in Monterey County. The program's sixteen conservation practices, environmental protection measures, and additional conditions requested by regulatory agencies have not changed since the Commission's 2002 concurrence. While no projects were implemented during the initial five-year period, the NRCS expects that four projects will be implemented in 2008. The NRCS has determined that these projects will be consistent with the program concurred with by the Commission in 2002.

The Coastal Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed one-year extension of the permit coordination program (CD-096-01) will not adversely affect coastal resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to Section 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 that reads "Mark Douglas".

(for)

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

ND-076-07 (NRCS)

Page 2

cc: CCC – Central Coast District
California Department of Water Resources
Governor's Washington, D.C., Office
Erik Schmidt, Sustainable Conservation