

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT
FOR THE
APRIL 14, 2011 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
E-10-019-W Steinhart Aquarium	Collect marine substrates ("live rock" and sand) for maintenance and upkeep of Steinhart Aquarium's living exhibits.	California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco



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

DATE: March 30, 2011

PERMIT NO. E-10-019-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, pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Steinhart Aquarium
55 Music Concourse Dr., Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, Ca 94118

Background and Project Description: The Steinhart Aquarium, part of the California Academy of Sciences, houses a wide variety of living exhibits, including approximately 10 smaller tanks (ranging from 7 to 200 gallons) which focus on northern and southern California coastal habitats and contain natural rock and sand. Maintenance and upkeep of these exhibits requires the periodic addition of sand, rock, and live algae from local areas, including the marine environment. The Steinhart Aquarium is proposing to periodically collect, using hand tools only, “live rock” and sand from four locations along the north-central coast for a period of three years. “Live rock” is the term used to describe rocky substrate that has been colonized by a variety of small invertebrate and algal organisms, many of which are difficult to initially establish in artificial settings. The proposed collecting sites include intertidal areas adjacent to Pillar Point Harbor, Pillar Point South Beach, and northern Pigeon Point, as well as an area of submerged state lands approximately one-half mile offshore of the City of Monterey. Use of these sites would vary throughout the year and materials would not be collected from a single site more than four times each year. No more than 15 cubic yards of sand and baseball to basketball-sized rocks would be removed each year. No mechanized equipment would be used during collecting activities.

The California State Lands Commission has issued a Letter of Non-Objection for the proposed activity.

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 Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- The proposed sites would be outside of all designated State Marine Conservation Areas, State Marine Reserves, and State Marine Recreational Managed Areas.
- Other than the potential use of SCUBA gear and a dive vessel at the shale beds site offshore of Monterey, no mechanized vehicles or equipment would be used during collecting activities.
- An effort would be made to relocate all mobile organisms from targeted rock and sand prior to collection.
- Collecting activities would be spread throughout the four proposed sites and among a variety of subsites at each location to ensure that no single site experiences a noticeable loss of either sand or loose rock habitat.
- Care would be taken during all collecting activities to limit the disturbance and disruption of intact intertidal and subtidal habitat.

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 April 13-15, 2011 in Santa Barbara, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

By:


ALISON DETTMER
Deputy Director