

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
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Prepared October 10, 2019 (for October 18, 2019 Hearing)

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Director

Subject: Central Coast District Director's Report for October 2, 2019

The following coastal development permit (CDP) waivers, immaterial CDP amendments, immaterial CDP extensions, and emergency CDPs for the Central Coast District Office are being reported to the Commission on October 18, 2019. Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, each item has been appropriately noticed as required, and each item is also available for review at the Commission's Central Coast District Office in Santa Cruz. Staff is asking for the Commission's concurrence on the items in the Central Coast District Director's Report, and will report any objections received and any other relevant information on these items to the Commission when it considers the Report on October 18, 2019 in Chula Vista.

With respect to the October 18th hearing, interested persons may sign up to address the Commission on items contained in this Report prior to the Commission's consideration of the Report. The Commission can overturn staff's noticed determinations for some categories of items subject to certain criteria in each case (see individual notices for specific requirements).

Items being reported on October 18, 2019 (see attached)

CDP Waivers

- 3-19-0897-W, UCSC Long Marine Laboratory Seawater Intake Repair (Santa Cruz)
- 9-19-1002-W, Pacific Quest Natural Bridges Vessel Salvage (Santa Cruz)

CDP Amendments

- None

CDP Extensions

- None

Emergency CDPs

- None

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER

Date: October 4, 2019
To: All Interested Parties
From: Susan Craig, Central Coast District Manager
Ryan Moroney, Central Coast District Supervisor
Subject: **Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 3-19-0897-W**
Applicant: University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Proposed Development

Repairs to the existing seawater intake, including replacement of a steel support beam, repair of concrete support beam and repair of eroded rock and concrete shelves in the ocean seaward of Terrace Point in the City of Santa Cruz.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13238 of the California Code of Regulations, and based on project plans and information submitted by the Applicant regarding the proposed development, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a CDP for the following reasons:

Long Marine Laboratory (located at UCSC's Marine Science Campus) and its affiliated marine research partners (including California Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries) use an existing seawater intake at Terrace Point, which provides seawater for these entities' various research tanks, pools, and aquaria. The scope of this project is to replace a corroded steel support beam, to repair a concrete support beam, and to repair the existing eroded concrete and rock shelves as needed to keep the existing seawater intake system operational and to avoid a catastrophic failure in its operation. This work can only be completed at low tide during periods of mild surf. Without repairs, the infrastructure is at structural risk from further corrosion damage from ocean (salt) water, as well as erosion damage from sand migration, wave currents, and wave surge, particularly during winter storm periods. This could result in the intake's steel components and pipelines breaking free, which would cause significant damage to the surrounding ocean environment. The objective of the repairs is to ensure that the intake infrastructure remains safely in place and that the intake can continue to supply seawater to UCSC's Marine Science Campus and its affiliated state and federal agency facilities.

The Applicant has worked closely with Commission staff to reduce the scope of the proposed work to avoid impacts. As proposed, the project will mitigate unavoidable project impacts by providing funding for a Rockweed Enhancement Project.¹ The Applicant has also proposed to incorporate extensive impact avoidance and minimization measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction work in the nearshore environment to avoid any such impacts to the maximum extent feasible, including worker environmental awareness training, nesting bird pre-construction survey and avoidance, black abalone

¹ Rockweed, which is an important native rocky intertidal algae species that provides habitat for various other native intertidal species, has been in decline along the California coast for some time.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER
CDP Waiver 3-19-0897-W (UCSC LML Seawater Intake Repair)
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avoidance and minimization plan, trampling reduction plan, marine wildlife monitoring, as well as a concrete spill prevention plan to avoid any discharges into the marine environment. For these reasons, the proposed project will not adversely impact coastal resources, and thus is consistent with the Coastal Act.

This waiver is not effective until all other agency approvals have been obtained. Minor adjustments to the project description may be allowed by the Executive Director if such adjustments: (1) are deemed reasonable and necessary; and (2) do not adversely impact coastal resources.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on Friday, October 18, 2019, in Chula Vista. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Ryan Moroney in the Central Coast District office.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER

Date: October 4, 2019
To: All Interested Parties
From: Susan Craig, Central Coast District Manager
Jonathan Bishop, Oil Spill Program Coordinator
Subject: **Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 9-19-1002-W**
Applicant: Gary Clisby, Quest Sportfishing Charters, Inc.

Proposed Development

Authorize emergency cleanup work conducted under Emergency Coastal Development Permit (ECDP) G-9-18-0018, consisting of removal of diesel fuel and other pollutants from a wrecked commercial fishing vessel; removal of remaining large/heavy pieces of the vessel (engines, generators, remaining hull, etc.) from the sandy beach; and small debris removal (fiberglass, styrofoam, wood, plastic pieces, small electronics, etc.) from the sandy beach, intertidal zone, and offshore kelp beds near Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz County. The project includes restoration of University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) property damaged during the vessel salvage operations. In order to mitigate for impacts from any pollutants/debris possibly remaining on the beach and in the ocean, the Applicant has donated \$6,000 to Save Our Shores, a local nonprofit agency, to fund beach cleanups in the vicinity of the wreck.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13238 of the California Code of Regulations, and based on project plans and information submitted by the Applicant regarding the proposed development, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a CDP for the following reasons:

On August 12, 2018, the 56-foot commercial fishing vessel, *Pacific Quest*, ran aground near Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz County, with a maximum potential capacity of 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel onboard. The vessel immediately began breaking apart on the rocks, causing an estimated 200 gallons of diesel fuel to be released into the ocean. The following morning, emergency responders were able to remove roughly 720 gallons of fuel that remained in the vessel. After the fuel was removed, attention turned to salvage of the vessel by removing the engines, generators, and larger hull pieces from the beach with the use of heavy equipment that was staged and stored on the bluff (i.e. on UCSC property) above the wreck site. During the salvage, high tides and heavy surf continued to damage and break up the vessel. Debris from the wreck was extensive and extended along the shoreline, intertidal zone, and into the nearshore kelp beds. Emergency offshore cleanup was also performed by boats and swimmers in order to retrieve large pieces of floating debris from the kelp beds, while crews walked the sandy beach and rocky reef retrieving smaller pieces of debris. The emergency cleanup was necessary to abate the threat of a significant oil spill and to minimize the release of hazardous debris onto the beach and into the ocean. After the larger pieces of debris were collected, cleanup of smaller debris continued on the beach and in the intertidal area for four months.

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CDP Waiver 9-19-1102-W (Quest Sportfishing Charters, Inc.)
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The central issues raised by the emergency cleanup project are 1) ensuring restoration of any UCSC property damaged during vessel salvage operations, and 2) mitigating the impacts of pollutants/debris that may remain on the beach and in the ocean. To address these issues, the project includes complete restoration of UCSC property damaged during the vessel salvage operations, namely through soil re-contouring and replanting of native plants that were destroyed by heavy equipment on the bluff, and repairs to the public access trail that extends from the campus entrance area to the blufftop above the beach and intertidal area. In order to mitigate for any impacts from any pollutants/debris remaining on the beach and in the ocean, the Applicant has donated \$6,000 to Save Our Shores, a local nonprofit agency, to fund six ongoing and targeted beach cleanups in the vicinity of the wreck. This mitigation appropriately offsets potential adverse coastal resource impacts, and thus this waiver concludes that the issues associated with the development can be found consistent with the Coastal Act.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on Friday, October 18, 2019 in Chula Vista. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Jonathan Bishop in the Central Coast District office.