

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

Project Title: Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal - Advanced Design and Public Engagement Project

Project Location – Specific: Samoa Peninsula in Humboldt Bay

Project Location – City: _____ **Project Location – County:** Humboldt County CA

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The grant agreement funds planning activities in support of the offshore wind energy infrastructure improvements at the Heavy Lift Marine Terminal project site at Humboldt Bay that advance the capabilities of California waterfront facilities to support the development and operation of floating offshore wind projects. Planning activities include community, stakeholder and tribal engagement, studies and planning, and design and mitigation planning.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15306, 15262
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt: 14 CCR § 15306 provides that activities of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from CEQA. The proposed project will primarily involve planning activities such as information gathering, analysis, writing feasibility studies, and site assessments including a limited number geotech marine borings. Other grant activities include capacity building and engagement with local communities, tribal communities and other stakeholders. The grant will also fund advanced engineering and design studies and mitigation planning at Woodley Island Fisherman's Work dock and other off-site locations. The studies are leading to an action that has not yet been approved, adopted or funded. Because the project consists of information gathering, evaluation and planning, it falls within §15306, and is categorically exempt from CEQA.

14 CCR § 15262 provides that a project involving feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. Here, the proposed project involves feasibility and planning studies to support the future design and development of the Terminal Project at the Humboldt Harbor District. The agreement will also fund stakeholder engagement and planning, advanced engineering and design studies and environmental studies for mitigation planning. Thus, the project is exempt from CEQA under 14 CCR § 15262.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Public Agency

Contact Person: _____ **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Reid Boggiano **Date:** 10/14/2025 **Title:** EGSPS

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____