LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Pier Structural Repairs

Check Document being Filed:

- ○ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ○ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- ◉ Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- ○ Other (Please fill in type):

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office.For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles Business Filings
12400 E. Imperial Hwy., #1201
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
(Address)

Project Title: City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Pier Structural Repairs

Project Applicant: City of Hermosa beach Public Works Department

Project Location - Specific:

1 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 (Hermosa Beach Pier, West of Pier Plaza)

Project Location - City: Hermosa Beach Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Repairs include the replacement of four (4) concrete deck panels, repair and strengthening of fourteen (14) concrete deck panels, and crack injection and concrete spall repairs to approximately 35% of the deck panels along with connection repairs to pier amenities such as plaques and benches.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Hermosa Beach

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Hermosa Beach Public Works Department

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301 and 15302
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project Scope includes necessary structural repairs to the existing Municipal Pier and involves no expansion of existing or former use. Please see attached memo for additional information.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Joe SanClemente Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (310) 318-0238

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: _____ Date: 10/22/2025 Title: Public Works Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011

☐

To: Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk

Contact No.: 310-318-0238

From: Joe SanClemente, City of Hermosa Beach Public Works Department

Email: jsanclemente@hermosabeach.gov

Project Name: City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Pier Structural Repairs

Subject: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE)

1. Introduction

A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance review was performed for the City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Pier Structural Repairs (Project). This memorandum provides a brief description of the Project, summarizes the CEQA exemption that the Project qualifies for, and reports the findings of supporting documentation.

2. Project Background and Description

The proposed Project consists of essential structural repairs necessary to ensure the continued safe operation and public use of the Hermosa Beach Pier (Pier) located at 1 Pier Avenue in the City of Hermosa Beach, California. The Pier is a public coastal facility that provides pedestrian access for ocean viewing and recreational fishing. Over time, the Pier has experienced natural deterioration resulting from exposure to weather conditions and wave action. To restore the structural integrity and stability of the facility, the Project proposes the replacement of four (4) concrete deck panels, the repair and strengthening of fourteen (14) concrete deck panels, and the implementation of crack injection and concrete spall repairs on approximately 30 percent of the deck surface area. The Project also includes connection repairs to existing pier amenities, such as plaques and benches, to maintain a safe and functional structure for continued public use.

Project Plans will also include a staging and access plan that will outline pier access during Project construction, as well as staging and storing areas near the Project site.

Construction activities will not take place during the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Construction is anticipated to commence in October 2026 and continue through the winter and spring seasons. To maintain public access during construction, activities would be confined to designated work zones along the Pier, resulting in temporary and localized closures only. No vegetation removal, habitat disturbance, or nighttime construction is proposed. The Project would implement necessary structural repairs and improvements to restore the Pier's structural integrity, enhance safety and functionality, and improve its aesthetic condition to support continued safe public use and enjoyment.

3. Review for CEQA Exemption

The Project was reviewed relative to CEQA Guidelines to determine if the qualifies under a class of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which may be exempted. The Project meets the criteria for a Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions, which are described below.

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301: Existing Facilities

The Class 1 Categorical Exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of "existing facilities" applicable under the Class 1 exemption include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Interior or exterior alterations involving items such as partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances.

(b) Existing facilities of both investor- and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.

(c) Existing highways, streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities, including road grading for public safety purposes.

(d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless the damage resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.

The proposed Project meets the criteria for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Section 15301) as it involves the repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of an existing public facility—the Hermosa Beach Pier. The Project includes structural repairs, reinforcement of existing concrete deck panels, crack and spall repairs, and replacement of damaged structural components to maintain the Pier's safe and functional condition. The work constitutes minor alterations to an existing structure with no expansion of use or capacity and is therefore categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction

The Class 2 Categorical exemption includes the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities where the new structure will be located at the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Item (c) of the Class 2 exemption includes the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The proposed Project improvements meet the criteria for the Class 2 exemption, as the Project would include

replacement and reconstruction of existing concrete deck panels, cracks, and spall repairs, replacement of damaged structural components, replacement of surfer dedication plaques, and reattachment of existing benches.

3.1 CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies specific circumstances under which a Categorical Exemption cannot be applied. The exceptions include considerations related to project location, cumulative impacts, significant effects due to unusual circumstances, scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources. Each of these exceptions has been evaluated for the proposed Project, as summarized below.

- Exception 15300.2 (a) – Location
- Exception 15300.2 (b) – Cumulative Impact
- Exception 15300.2 (c) – Significant Effect
- Exception 15300.2 (d) – Scenic Highways
- Exception 15300.2 (e) – Hazardous Waste Sites
- Exception 15300.2 (f) – Historical Resources

As part of this review for exemption, the project was evaluated against each of the applicable exceptions, summarized below.

Exception 15300.2 (a) - Location
CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a) specifies that certain classes of exemptions are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located. A project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive environment, be significant. The 15300.2(a) exception does not apply to Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions, and as such, this exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (b) - Cumulative Impact

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(b) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time is significant. Cumulative impacts are defined as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355).

A search was undertaken to identify reasonably foreseeable cumulative projects that may have overlapped or cumulative impacts with the Project. Efforts to identify cumulative projects included a review of ongoing and planned projects at the Pier and within the City of Hermosa Beach, including City Capital Improvement Projects and development projects. Upon evaluation of the City's current Capital Improvement and other City Projects, there are no projects located within the Project area. The nearest Capital Improvement Project is the Parking Lot C Structural

Repairs Project which is located approximately 600 feet northeast of the Project area and has a construction completion timeframe of Summer 2026. The Project will not coincide with this nearby Project, as all work will take place on and in the immediate vicinity of the existing Pier. No additional cumulative projects were identified on or in the vicinity of the Project. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(b) exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (c) - Significant Effect from Unusual Circumstances

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(c) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project is consistent with exempt classes of projects (Class 1 and Class 2) and does not include a feature that distinguishes it from others in the exempt classes, such as size or location. Construction and alteration/repairs are common features within the exempt class of projects. The size of the Pier will not increase; all structural repairs will take place within the existing footprint of the Pier structure. No new construction outside of the Pier footprint is proposed. The environment within the Project area is not unusually sensitive. The area is an existing concrete pier structure. The proposed Project is not anticipated to increase public capacity at the Pier. Small portions of the Pier will be temporarily closed off during the fall, winter, and spring months to accommodate construction activities; however, public access to the Pier will be maintained during construction to allow continued public use (i.e., ocean viewing and fishing). No occurrences of special-status plant or wildlife species have been recorded on the Project site (CNDDB 2022, USFWS 2022). The state and federally listed western snowy plover is known to winter on the beaches of the City, though a nest has not been recorded since 1949, and the closest breeding colony to Hermosa Beach is in Bolsa Chica in Orange County (City of Hermosa Beach, 2015).

There is no adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan for the Project area. The City of Hermosa Beach has a Local Coastal Plan, which mentions the regional importance of the Pier as a local recreation resource (City of Hermosa Beach, 1981). There is also a City plan titled City of Hermosa Beach PLAN Hermosa: Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2015081009) for the City of Hermosa Beach; however, there are no specific measures or plan sections relating to the Pier/Pier resources. The Plan notes that the beaches are frequented by human traffic, and no vegetated dune habitat exists in Hermosa Beach (City of Hermosa Beach, 2017). No unusual circumstances have been identified. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(c) exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (d) - Scenic Highways

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(d) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State scenic highway. There are no officially designated State scenic highways in the Project area (Caltrans 2022). Therefore, the exception under Section 15300.2(d) does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (e) - Hazardous Waste Sites

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(e) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. To determine if any portion of the Project would be located on such a list, online data resources were reviewed that provide information on facilities or sites pursuant to Section 65962.5, as well as relevant reports to any listed hazardous waste sites (CalEPA 2022). These include:

- Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database;
- List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites from the Water Board GeoTracker database;
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by the Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels; and
- List of "active" Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders from the Water Board; and
- List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

Based on the review of the above-mentioned lists, the Project is not included on a site that is not included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, and no adjacent sites were identified where contamination may have extended onto the property. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(e) exception does not apply to the project.

Exception 15300.2(f) – Historical Resource

CEQA Guidelines Section 15600.2 (f) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The CEQA Guidelines define a historical resource as: (1) a resource listed in the California Register of Historical Resources; (2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(k), or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g); or (3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

The Project is located entirely within the existing footprint of the Pier. The Project will require necessary structural repairs to the Pier to ensure safe access and function of this public structure, and no new construction or addition to the existing Project area is proposed. According to the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Pier is not designated as a historic resource under the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the Pier is not a dedicated historic landmark according to the City of Hermosa Beach City Council. The State Office of Historic Preservation Built Environment Resources Directory, which includes listings of the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest,

and the National Register of Historic Places, lists no recorded buildings or structures within or adjacent to the Project area. In addition, the Project area is not listed on the City of Hermosa Beach Historic Resources List and is not included within a City of Hermosa Beach Historic District. Furthermore, the Project would not remove or materially alter any existing buildings at/near the Pier. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(f) exception does not apply to the Project.

4. Conclusion

The Project qualifies for a combination of Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions from CEQA under Sections 15301 and 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines. The environmental review and documentation reported above did not identify any significant effects that would occur from the Project, and the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines were found not to apply to the Project.

5. References

California Department of Transportation, 2025. California State Scenic Highway Map. https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). 2025. Cortese List Data Resources. https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 2025. CNDDB. California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

City of Hermosa Beach. 1981. City of Hermosa Beach Local Coastal Plan. Available at: https://www.hermosabeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/729/637001018228830000

City of Hermosa Beach. 2015. Transpacific Submarine Fiber Optic Cable Draft EIR. SCH#20155041004.

City of Hermosa Beach. 2017. City of Hermosa Beach PLAN Hermosa – Final Environmental Impact Report Volume II: Revised Draft EIR. SCH#2015081009. Available at: https://www.hermosabeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/9869/637001018228830000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2022. Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Map. https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2022. Information for Planning and Consultation