State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753 5a (Rev 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753 5a

RECEIPT NUMBER	
37-01/23/2026-0061	
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (*If applicable*)	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO STORMWATER DEPARTMENT		01/23/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
SAN DIEGO	37-2026-0061

PROJECT TITLE
FAMOSA SLOUGH EUTROPHICATION MONITORING AND ALGAE REMOVAL PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO STORMWATER DEPARTMENT			858-541-4341
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	**CITY**	**STATE**	**ZIP CODE**
9370 CHESAPEAKE DR. STE 100 MS 1900	SAN DIEGO	CA	92123

PROJECT APPLICANT (*Check appropriate box*)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,227 50	$	0 00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	$3,043 75	$	0 00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437 25	$	0 00

☒ Exempt from fee

- ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850 00	$	0 00
☒ County documentary handling fee		$	50 00
☐ Other		$	0 00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☒ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 50 00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X M Montgomery	San Diego County Clerk, MARIA GOMEZ, Deputy

Payment Reference #: CHECK # 0002098337

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT COPY - CDFW/ASB COPY - LEAD AGENCY COPY - COUNTY CLERK DFW 753 5A (Rev 01012026)

FILED
Jan 23, 2026 10:48 AM
JORDAN Z. MARKS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2026-000064
State Receipt # 37012320260061

SAN DIEGO 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

FAMOSA SLOUGH EUTROPHICATION MONITORING AND ALGAE REMOVAL PROJECT

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)

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK ON January 23, 2026
Posted January 23, 2026 **Removed** _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY _____

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.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Check both)

TO: ___X___ Recorder/County Clerk
P.O. Box 1750, MS A-33
1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 260
San Diego, CA 92101-2422

___X___ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: City of San Diego
Stormwater Department
9370 Chesapeake Dr. Ste. 100
San Diego, CA 92123

PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT TITLE: Famosa Slough Eutrophication Monitoring and Algae Removal Project

PROJECT LOCATION-SPECIFIC: Central Coordinates: 32.752, -177.228; Assessor Parcel Numbers: 441-090-44; 449-870-03; 449-870-02; Community Planning Area: Peninsula; Council District: 2.

Famosa Slough and Channel is a 37-acre wetland bisected by West Point Loma Boulevard, directly adjacent to the Interstate 8 eastbound lanes on the north and two condominium complexes on the east and west. South of West Point Loma Boulevard, the Famosa Slough (Slough) pond area is bordered by an existing service station and convenience store on the east, Famosa Boulevard on the west and residential uses on the west, Valeta Street and a public school on the southwestern edge of the Slough in a primarily multifamily residential neighborhood. The proposed project and staging area are located within the southern central basin of Famosa Slough, on the southside of West Point Loma Boulevard, directly adjacent to Famosa Boulevard. The entire Famosa Slough is located within the City of San Diego's (City) Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA).

PROJECT LOCATION-CITY/COUNTY: San Diego/San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT: The proposed Famosa Slough Eutrophication Monitoring and Algae Removal Project will allow for the removal of eutrophic algae blooms in the southern central basin (basin) of Famosa Slough caused by excessive nutrient loading from urban runoff and trash/debris which will reduce negative impacts to water quality, and biological and recreational resources in the Slough area. Eutrophication or hypertrophication is when a body of water becomes overly enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive growth of algae. The Famosa Slough and Channel are hydrologically affected by three distinct systems. The tidal circulation of seawater is the primary parameter which created and maintains the coastal wetland ecosystem. Runoff from the local watershed and freshwater flow from the San Diego River Flood Control Channel are the other two sources which provide various amounts of input on a seasonal basis. Famosa Slough is on the Clean Water Action Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments for eutrophication, with nutrients as the pollutant category (State Water Resources Control Board, 2024), and the 2024 California Integrated Water Quality Report and 303(d) List.

The proposed Project involves the recurring inspection and maintenance of an impaired water body on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list for eutrophication, which has been caused by excessive nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus). The City has been directed by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control

(San Diego Water Board) to develop and implement a total maximum daily load (TMDL) alternative to address eutrophication in the Famosa Slough. One of the activities the City is required to conduct to address eutrophication in the Slough is to remove floating algal mats from the southern central basin portion of the Slough under specific circumstances. Under the Alternative TMDL, algal mat removal would be required if algae within the basin reaches the combined regulatory action triggers of 50 percent or greater cover and a measured algal biomass of 80 grams per square meter. Algal monitoring is conducted at the locations and frequency described in the Famosa Slough Eutrophication Monitoring Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (City 2023).

The proposed Project does not involve permanent development. All work would be performed and/or overseen by the City Stormwater Department staff. Algae removal regulatory action triggers are most likely to be met during the summer months when algal cover is greatest. If algal removal is required, a crew of two to four City staff and a qualified biologist will remove algae by skimming algae mats from the surface of the water. Hand tools will be used to perform this work; no mechanized equipment will be used to remove the algae from the Slough waterbody. Staff will work from the open water, wearing waders, to remove excess algae mats by hand with one or more of the following: rakes, nets, kayaks, canoes, and/or stand-up paddleboards. All work will be conducted by City staff and pre algae removal and removal activities will be monitored by a qualified biologist. Since algal mats are floating, algal removal will not require excavation or soil disturbance. No other vegetation will be removed or indirectly impacted as part of the Project. The Project will not include permanent development or modifications within the Slough. Algae removal will occur as needed to maintain the algal biomass and percent cover below the required thresholds as established by the QAPP.

No Grading would occur in the Slough or surrounding vicinity. Access to the basin will be provided via an existing City Park and Recreation maintained hard-packed access trail that leads from Famosa Boulevard to a disturbed and unvegetated area adjacent to the basin. The unvegetated area is roped off from the surrounding vegetation and will be used as the landing and staging area for the Project. Once removed, algae would be brought to the staging area onshore and manually placed within a temporary containment basin to allow the algae to dry out. Once dry, City crews will use a Vactor Truck to remove the algae from the temporary containment. The Vactor Truck will be parked on Famosa Boulevard and has a vacuum boom long enough to reach the staging area without disturbing existing vegetation. It is anticipated that the Vactor Truck will be able to vacuum out the algae from the temporary containment in approximately 5 to 10 minutes. Algae will be disposed at a landfill.

The Project does not involve any permanent development or associated construction and would not negatively impact storm water flow; as such, the Project would not require the preparation or use of construction storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) or a Storm Water Quality Management Plan. Conversely, the Project would serve as a BMP by improving water quality in the Famosa Slough. Therefore, it is not necessary to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or Water Pollution Control Plan.

The proposed Project does not have the potential to impact potentially significant cultural resources because: 1) no grading or landform modification would occur on upland landforms that have the potential to have supported prehistoric occupation. The proposed Project staging area was previously disturbed and would not be modified further; 2) proposed algae removal would be undertaken with hand tools such that no mechanical equipment would be placed on upland landforms where the potential for prehistoric occupation is greatest; 3) proposed algae transport from staging area to the Vactor Truck parked on Famosa Boulevard would be undertaken by extending a vacuum boom from the City's Right-of-Way to the staging area. Famosa Boulevard is situated approximately 5-10 feet above the staging area and the Vactor Truck's vacuum boom can extend above the ground surface and existing vegetation to reach the temporary

containment basin, such that there is no mechanical equipment placed on upland landforms where the potential for prehistoric occupation is greatest; and 4) the removed algae material would be placed within a temporary containment basin in the previously graded staging areas, and then transported to a licensed landfill or solid waste facility for disposal, such that there would be no potential for unknown archaeological resources to be indirectly impacted by placement of the organic materials.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: City of San Diego

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: City of San Diego Stormwater Department, 9370 Chesapeake Dr. Ste. 100 MS 1900, San Diego, CA 92123. City Contact: Mariah Mills, Senior Planner. Telephone: (858) 541-4341. E-mail: MMills@sandiego.gov.

EXEMPT STATUS:

( ) MINISTERIAL
( ) DECLARED EMERGENCY
( ) EMERGENCY PROJECT
(X) CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION: § 15304(d) (Minor Alterations to Land) and §15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources)
( ) STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The City of San Diego conducted an environmental review and technical analysis which provided evidence to support the determination that the project would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(d) which allows for minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in an improvement of habitat for fish or wildlife resources or greater fish production; Section 15307 which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; and where none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Section 15300.2 would apply in that no cumulative impacts were identified; no significant effects on the environment were identified; the project is not adjacent to a scenic highway; no historical resources would be affected by the action; and the project was not identified on a list of hazardous waste sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

This environmental determination is supported by a Biological Reconnaissance Survey Update and analysis conducted by WSP (WSP 2025) which concluded that the Project would not have significant impacts on sensitive species and biological resources and any potential impacts would be reduced or avoided by limiting work activities to open water, disturbed, and developed areas. Additionally, pre-activity surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist for any work conducted during the nest period (January 15 to July 31 for raptor species; February 15 to September 15 for other non-raptor birds) and if active nests are present, the qualified biologist would establish appropriate buffers. The Biological Reconnaissance Survey Update provides an update of a biological reconnaissance survey conducted in 2019 by Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (now WSP) that also concluded that the Project would not have significant impacts (Wood 2019). The cultural determination is supported by qualified staff review of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), in-house resources and a site visit which concluded that the activity would not adversely affect known or recorded resources within proximity to project location in Famosa Slough.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Mariah Mills, Senior Planner. City of San Diego Stormwater Department, 9370 Chesapeake Dr. Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92123. Telephone: (858) 541-4341. E-mail:

MMills@sandiego.gov.

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?
   (X) YES ( ) NO

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO HAS DETERMINED THE ABOVE ACTIVITY TO BE EXEMPT FROM CEQA.

Mariah Mills, Senior Planner, Stormwater Department

01/22/2026
DATE

CHECK ONE:
(X) SIGNED BY LEAD AGENCY
( ) SIGNED BY APPLICANT

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING WITH COUNTY CLERK OR OPR:

San Diego County

Transaction #: 8851382
Receipt #: 2026028694

JORDAN Z. MARKS
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155
www.sdarcc.gov

Cashier Date: 01/23/2026
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 01/23/2026 10:49 am

Payment Summary

Total Fees:	$50.00
Total Payments:	$50.00
Balance:	$0.00

Payment	
CHECK PAYMENT #0002098337	$50.00
Total Payments	$50.00

Filing

CEQA - NOE FILE #: 2026-000064 Date: 01/23/2026 10:48AM Pages: 5

State Receipt # 37-01/23/2026-0061

Fees:	Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee	$50.00
Total Fees Due:		$50.00

Grand Total - All Documents: $50.00