



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Upper Newport Back Bay Drive Maintenance Project (Notification of Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS -ORA-64918-R5)

Project Location: The Project is located within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, in the County of Orange, State of California; maintenance facilities along Back Bay Drive (Assessor's Parcel Number 440-142-14) and Bayview Way at Bayview Place and Bayview Way at Jamboree, in the City of Newport Beach California; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps Newport Beach and Tustin, Township 6S, Range 10W, San Bernardino meridian.

Project Description: CDFW has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-ORA-64918-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the City of Newport Beach as represented by Casey Parks.

The Project is limited to routine maintenance activities that consist of removing native, nonnative, and invasive vegetation. Vegetation includes but is not limited to willows, cattails, and pepper trees. It also includes removal of sediment in stormwater and flood control facilities for the purpose of flood control along Back Bay Drive, from Shellmaker Road to Eastbluff Drive. All the work is in the narrow stream channel between the road and the slope, except for the maintenance of 38 storm drain culvert structures which are located on the bay side of Back Bay Drive. Routine maintenance activities will also take place at two additional locations; one at Bayview Way at Bayview Place, and the other at Bayview Way at Jamboree Road. Along Back Bay Drive. Project activities include clearing culverts and associated inlet and outlet structures, vegetation clearing and trimming. At maintenance sites with natural, earthen bottom channels and native vegetation, vegetation management shall be limited to trimming understory vegetation to maintain the minimum area needed to preserve low-flow function.

Casey Parks
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Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Casey Parks
City of Newport Beach
100 Civic Center Drive, Bay 2D
Newport Beach, CA 92660
cparks@newportbeachca.gov

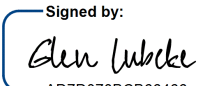
Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301.

Reasons why project is exempt:

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to the Class 1 Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, "Existing Facilities." Class 1 applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private facilities, where activities result in negligible or no expansion of use. This Project qualifies under Class 1 because all work consists of routine maintenance within an already-established and previously-disturbed facility footprint, including trash removal and minor vegetation trimming. The activities do not expand the existing use, remove mature or scenic vegetation, or create any potential for significant environmental impacts.

CDFW Contact Person: Paola Perez, Environmental Scientist, (858) 354-2413, and Paola.Perez@wildlife.ca.gov

Signed by:  8/17/2026
Signature: _____ Date: _____
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Glen M. Lubcke, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: