



## INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT AUTHORIZATION

The Santa Cruz Port District (Port District) is hereby authorized under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)(D)) to harass marine mammals incidental to pile removal and installation in the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor, Santa Cruz, California, when adhering to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) is valid from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020.
2. This IHA is valid only for pile installation and removal associated with the Aldo's Seawall Replacement Project in Santa Cruz, California.
3. General Conditions
  - (a) A copy of this IHA must be in the possession of the Port District, its designees, work crew personnel, and Protected Species Observers (PSOs) operating under the authority of this IHA.
  - (b) The species authorized for taking are the harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*).
  - (c) The taking, by Level A and B harassment, is limited to the species listed in condition 3(b). Table 1 provides the authorized number of takes per species and stock.
  - (d) The taking by serious injury or death of any of the species listed in condition 3(b) of this IHA or any taking of any other species of marine mammal is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension, or revocation of this IHA. Any taking exceeding the authorized amounts listed in Table 1 is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension, or revocation of this IHA.
4. Mitigation Measures

The holder of this IHA is required to implement the following mitigation measures:



- (a) For in-water construction, heavy machinery activities other than pile driving (e.g., pre-drilling), the Port District must shut down the operating equipment if a marine mammal comes within 10 meters (m) of the equipment. Activities may resume once the animal is confirmed to have left the shutdown zone or 15 minutes have passed without additional sightings of the animal.
- (b) The Port District is required to conduct briefings for construction supervisors and crews, the monitoring team, and Port District staff prior to the start of all pile driving activity, and when new personnel join the work, in order to explain responsibilities, communication procedures, the marine mammal monitoring protocol, and operational procedures.
- (c) The Port District is required to employ at least one PSO to monitor the harbor during all in-water activities.
- (d) The Port District is required to establish and implement monitoring and shutdown zones (see Table 2) for each in-water activity.
- (e) Marine mammal monitoring must take place from 30 minutes prior to initiation of pile driving activity through 30 minutes post-completion of pile driving activity. Pile driving may commence when observers have declared the shutdown zone clear of marine mammals. In the event of a delay or shutdown of activity resulting from marine mammals in the shutdown zone (see Table 2), animals must be allowed to remain in the shutdown zone (*i.e.*, must leave of their own volition) and their behavior must be monitored and documented.
- (f) If a marine mammal is entering or is observed within the established shutdown zone (see Table 2), pile driving must be halted or delayed. Pile driving may not commence or resume until either the animal has voluntarily left and been visually confirmed beyond the shutdown zone or 15 minutes have passed without resighting the marine mammal.
- (g) The Port District must use soft start techniques when impact pile driving. Soft start requires contractors to provide an initial set of strikes at reduced energy, followed by a thirty-second waiting period, then two subsequent reduced energy strike sets. A soft start must be implemented at the start of each day's impact pile driving and at any time following cessation of impact pile driving for a period of thirty minutes or longer.
- (h) If a species for which authorization has not been granted, or a species for which authorization has been granted but the authorized takes are met, is observed approaching or within the harbor, pile driving and removal activities must shut down immediately using delay and shut-down procedures. Activities must not

resume until the animal has been confirmed to have left the area or 15 minutes has elapsed.

## 5. Monitoring Measures

The holder of this IHA is required to abide by the following marine mammal monitoring measures:

- (a) One PSO must be present during all pile installation and removal activities. The PSO must be placed at the best vantage point practicable to monitor for marine mammals and implement shutdown and delay procedures.
- (b) Marine mammal monitoring during pile driving and removal must be conducted by NMFS-approved PSOs in a manner consistent with the following:
  - i. Independent PSOs (*i.e.*, not construction personnel) who have no other assigned tasks during monitoring periods must be used.
  - ii. Other PSOs may substitute education (degree in biological science or related field) or training for experience.
  - iii. The Port District must submit PSO CVs for approval by NMFS prior to the onset of pile driving.
- (c) PSOs must monitor the entire visible extent of the harbor. The monitoring and shutdown zones are detailed in Table 2.

## 6. Reporting

The holder of this IHA is required to:

- (a) Submit a draft report on all monitoring conducted under the IHA within ninety calendar days of the completion of marine mammal monitoring or sixty days prior to the issuance of any subsequent IHA for this project, whichever comes first. A final report shall be prepared and submitted within thirty days following resolution of comments on the draft report from NMFS. This report must contain the informational elements described below, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Dates and times (begin and end) of all marine mammal monitoring.
  - ii. Construction activities occurring during each daily observation period, including how many and what type of piles were driven or removed and by what method (*i.e.*, impact or vibratory).



- iii. Weather parameters and water conditions during each monitoring period (e.g., wind speed, percent cover, visibility, sea state).
- iv. The number of marine mammals observed, by species, relative to the pile location and if pile driving or removal was occurring at time of sighting.
- v. Age and sex class, if possible, of all marine mammals observed.
- vi. PSO locations during marine mammal monitoring.
- vii. Distances and bearings of each marine mammal observed to the pile being driven or removed for each sighting (if pile driving or removal was occurring at time of sighting).
- viii. Description of any marine mammal behavior patterns during observation, including direction of travel.
- ix. Number of individuals of each species (differentiated by month as appropriate) detected within the monitoring zone, and estimates of number of marine mammals taken, by species (a correction factor may be applied to total take numbers, as appropriate).
- x. Detailed information about any implementation of any mitigation triggered (e.g., shutdowns and delays), a description of specific actions that ensued, and resulting behavior of the animal, if any.
- xi. Description of attempts to distinguish between the number of individual animals taken and the number of incidences of take, such as ability to track groups or individuals.

(b) Reporting injured or dead marine mammals:

- i. In the unanticipated event that the specified activity clearly causes the take of a marine mammal in a manner prohibited by this IHA, such as serious injury, or mortality, the Port District must immediately cease the specified activities and report the incident to the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (301-427-8401) and West Coast Region Stranding Coordinator (866-767-6114). The report must include the following information:
  - 1. Time and date of the incident;
  - 2. Description of the incident;
  - 3. Environmental conditions (e.g., wind speed and direction, Beaufort sea state, cloud cover, and visibility);
  - 4. Description of all marine mammal observations and active sound source use in the 24 hours preceding the incident;

5. Species identification or description of the animal(s) involved;
6. Fate of the animal(s); and
7. Photographs or video footage of the animal(s).

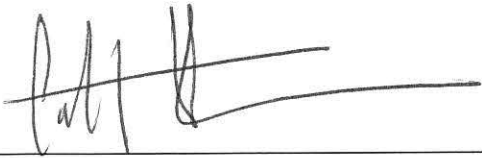
Activities must not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS will work with the Port District to determine what measures are necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. The Port District may not resume their activities until notified by NMFS.

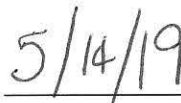
- ii. In the event the Port District discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead observer determines that the cause of the injury or death is unknown and the death is relatively recent (*e.g.*, in less than a moderate state of decomposition), the Port District must immediately report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the West Coast Region Stranding Coordinator, NMFS. The report must include the same information identified in 6(b)(i) of this IHA. Activities may continue while NMFS reviews the circumstances of the incident. NMFS will work with the Port District to determine whether additional mitigation measures or modifications to the activities are appropriate.
  - iii. In the event that the Port District discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead observer determines that the injury or death is not associated with or related to the specified activities (*e.g.*, previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or scavenger damage), the Port District must report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the West Coast Region Stranding Coordinator, NMFS, within 24 hours of the discovery.
7. This Authorization may be modified, suspended or withdrawn if the holder fails to abide by the conditions prescribed herein, or if NMFS determines the authorized taking is having more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammals.
8. Renewals - On a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-year IHA renewal with an expedited public comment period (15 days) when 1) another year of identical or nearly identical activities is planned or 2) the activities would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a second IHA would allow for completion of the activities beyond that allowed for under this IHA, provided all of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the current IHA.

(b) The request for renewal must include the following:

- i. An explanation that the activities to be conducted beyond the initial dates either are identical to the previously analyzed activities or include changes so minor (e.g., reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, take estimates, or mitigation and monitoring requirements.
- ii. A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

(c) Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures remain the same and appropriate, and the original findings remain valid.

  
Donna S. Wieting,  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service

  
Date

**Table 1. Authorized Take**

| <b>Species</b>      | <b>Stock</b>       | <b>Level A take</b> | <b>Level B take</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Harbor seal         | California         | 345                 | 391                 |
| California sea lion | United States      | 15                  | 68                  |
| Bottlenose dolphin  | California Coastal | 0                   | 72                  |
| Harbor porpoise     | Monterey Bay       | 0                   | 18                  |

**Table 2. Monitoring and Shutdown Zones by Project Activity**

| <b>Activity</b>                                    | <b>Shutdown Zone (m)</b>  | <b>Monitoring Zone</b>        |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Vibratory removal of timber piles                  | All species: 10   | Entire observable harbor area |
| Impact installation of steel sheet piles           | Pinnipeds: 25<br>Harbor porpoise and bottlenose dolphin: at mouth of harbor |                               |
| Vibratory installation of steel sheet piles        | Pinnipeds: 15<br>Harbor porpoise: 30  |                               |
| All other in-water activities (e.g., pre-drilling) | 10  |                               |