

**HUNTINGTON BEACH  
OFFICE OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**TO:** Zoning Administrator  
**FROM:** Hayden Beckman, Associate Planner  
**DATE:** December 16, 2015

**SUBJECT: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 15-003 (HUMBOLDT DRIVE BRIDGE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROJECT)**

**LOCATION:** The project site is the existing Humboldt Drive Bridge, spanning approximately 156 linear feet over the Short Channel, a tidally influenced waterway within the Huntington Harbour residential community.

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**Applicant/  
Property**

**Owner:** Jonathan Claudio, P.E., Public Works Department, City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**Request:** To analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with maintenance activities on the existing Humboldt Drive Bridge to restore the integrity of its original design. Parts of the bridge have deteriorated due to normal wear from vehicular traffic and from tidal flux of the marine ecosystem setting during the last five decades, and the bridge has been deemed functionally obsolete due to aspects of its existing condition and a narrow roadway width identified by a routine Caltrans Bridge Inspection Report. Repair/rehabilitation will be conducted in two phases to allow the continued use of the bridge for vehicular and pedestrian access, and will require the following maintenance measures: remove and replace the concrete barriers, sidewalks, and bridge deck; sandblast, clean and paint the steel girders and other steel members; and remove unsound concrete and patch concrete at the bridge columns, requiring working platforms with fully enclosed protective covers. The existing bridge will be widened by approximately two feet on each side (from the existing width of 35 feet to a total width of 39 feet) and provide standard sidewalks on both sides. All existing utilities would be temporarily relocated and/or supported during construction, and replaced upon completion of the project. Access to Humboldt Island will remain open during construction. A Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission will be required.

**Zone:** ROW (Right-of-Way)

**General Plan:** ROW (Right-of-Way)

**Existing Use:** Humboldt Drive Bridge with two traffic lanes and two pedestrian sidewalks.

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**RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the proposed project based upon the following findings:**

**SUGGESTED FINDINGS FOR APPROVAL – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 15-003:**

1. The Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 15-003 has been prepared in compliance with Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. It was advertised and available for a public comment period of thirty (30) days. Comments received during the comment period were considered by the Zoning Administrator prior to action on the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
2. Mitigation measures avoid or reduce the project's effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment will occur. Mitigation measures address potential impacts to nesting habitat for bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the potential discovery of human remains, or archaeological or paleontological resources during ground-disturbing activities, and potential impacts regarding water quality, hazardous materials, and construction noise.
4. There is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Zoning Administrator that the project, as mitigated through the attached mitigation measures for Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 15-003, will have a significant effect on the environment.

**SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

1. During construction, the contractor shall ensure that work areas are reduced to the maximum extent feasible to avoid the channel and minimize impacts on waters of the U.S. and state. **(Mitigation Measure)**
2. During construction, the Contractor shall ensure that measures for preventing material, equipment, and debris from falling into the channel would be in place at all times while the bridge deck is being removed. The work area would be tented and isolated to minimize the potential for concrete dust, debris, paint chips, rust, and construction material to fall into the channel. **(Mitigation Measure)**
3. During construction, the contractor shall ensure that working platforms with protective cover enclosures are installed around the bridge piers prior to repair. All work on the piers would be performed during low tide using the protective cover enclosures to minimize the potential for construction materials to fall and carry pollutants and sediment plumes into the channel. The protective cover enclosures would be removed and the working platforms would be cleaned each day before high tide, when platforms would become submerged. Initial installation and final removal of the working platforms would be completed during low tide to minimize sedimentation and turbidity in the channel. **(Mitigation Measure)**
4. During construction, the contractor shall implement appropriate hazardous material BMPs to reduce the potential for chemical spills or contaminant releases, including any non-stormwater discharge. A spill prevention plan would be developed and included as part of the SWPPP. Implementation of standard hazardous materials management and spill control response measures will minimize the potential for contamination of road surfaces and waters of the U.S. in the channel. All vehicles and equipment will be checked daily for fluid and fuel leaks, and drip pans will be placed under all equipment that is parked and not in operation. Vehicles and equipment will not be refueled or maintained in areas where pollutants could be released into the channel. **(Mitigation Measure)**

5. During construction, the Contractor shall ensure that construction areas would be reduced to the maximum extent feasible to avoid impacts on migratory birds. **(Mitigation Measure)**
6. During Construction, the contractor shall ensure that construction activities, including vegetation removal, are scheduled outside of the nesting bird season (typically February 15 to September 1) to the extent feasible. Although not anticipated, if vegetation removal is required it would be minimized and would be performed outside of the nesting season (typically February 15 to September 1) to the extent feasible. **(Mitigation Measure)**
7. If construction is required during bird nesting season, the contractor shall ensure that pre-construction nesting bird surveys would be completed by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to determine if nesting birds or active nests are within 300 feet of the construction area. Surveys would be repeated if construction activities are suspended for five days or more. **(Mitigation Measure)**
8. If vegetation removal must be conducted during the nesting season, the Contractor shall ensure that nesting bird surveys would be completed by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to these activities to determine whether nesting birds are in these areas. **(Mitigation Measure)**
9. If nesting birds are found in the project site, the contractor shall ensure during construction that appropriate buffers (typically 300 feet for songbirds) will be installed, in coordination with the appropriate resource agencies, to ensure that birds and/or their nests are not harmed. **(Mitigation Measure)**
10. The contractor shall ensure that pre-construction wildlife surveys are completed by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours prior to clearing, grubbing, or other activities to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds, bats or other sensitive species within 300 feet of the construction area. Surveys would be repeated if construction activities are suspended for five days or more. If any wildlife species are identified, appropriate measures would be developed and implemented to avoid impacts on these species, in consultation with resource agencies as applicable. **(Mitigation Measure)**
11. The contractor shall ensure that a lead and asbestos survey will be completed by a licensed specialist prior to construction to determine if there are lead- and asbestos-containing materials in the bridge structure. If none are found, no further action is necessary. **(Mitigation Measure)**
12. If lead- and asbestos-containing materials are found in the bridge structure, the contractor shall ensure during construction that handling and disposal are conducted in a manner approved by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal- OSHA), and the SCAQMD would be notified of the asbestos removal. **(Mitigation Measure)**
13. The construction contractor shall ensure that all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, is properly operating (tuned-up) and that mufflers are working adequately. **(Mitigation Measure)**
14. The construction contractor shall ensure that all construction equipment is located so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive noise receivers. **(Mitigation Measure)**

- 15. The construction contractor shall ensure that stockpiling and vehicle-staging areas are located as far as practical from noise-sensitive receivers during construction activities. **(Mitigation Measure)**
- 16. Two weeks prior to the construction, the construction contractor shall provide notification in writing to adjacent residences if they would be located within 150 feet of the active construction activity. **(Mitigation Measure)**
- 17. The construction contractor shall, as necessary, provide temporary noise barriers, including sound blankets, between the areas of active construction and sensitive receivers. **(Mitigation Measure)**
- 18. If archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or unique geologic features are encountered during construction, the contractor shall ensure that all ground disturbing work will be stopped until an archaeologist or monitor can properly assess the resource(s) and identify the appropriate measures to ensure that resource(s) would not be adversely affected. If human remains are encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing work will be stopped and standard measures required by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 will be followed to notify the County Coroner and identify the remains. **(Mitigation Measure)**

**INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS CONDITION:**

The owner of the property which is the subject of this project and the project applicant if different from the property owner, and each of their heirs, successors and assigns, shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Huntington Beach and its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action or proceedings, liability cost, including attorney’s fees and costs against the City or its agents, officers or employees, to attack, set aside, void or annul any approval of the City, including but not limited to any approval granted by the City Council, Planning Commission, or Design Review Board concerning this project. The City shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action or proceeding and should cooperate fully in the defense thereof.