

- The Navy is submitting a formal request for a renewal of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for the Pier 302 Replacement Project (Project) at the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific Bayside Complex on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL), California. The current IHA is for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 and is included for your reference. In order to fulfill the IHA requirements (Sec. 8) we are also including a preliminary report as part of the IHA renewal request for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. As the Project has progressed, scheduling revisions show that remaining pile installation of seventeen 6-inch round steel piles (using vibratory hammer) is scheduled to occur in Fall 2024. The remaining in-water work, starting in Fall 2024 to avoid the breeding/nesting season of the ESA-listed California least terns (*Sternula antillarum browni*), is expected to be completed in 2 days. It will be in the same location, use the same pile installation method, same pile size/type, and same duration/amount that was detailed in the IHA Application. All mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the IHA Monitoring Plan for pile installation will remain the same. New take estimates can be seen in the table below.

Summary of Expected Daily Species Presence in Project Area and Requested Level B Takes for Remaining Pile Installation of Seventeen 6-inch Round Steel Piles

Species	Expected Average Individuals Per Day	Requested Level B Take (original IHA permit)	Requested Remaining Level B Take (IHA renewal permit)
California sea lion ¹	15	480	30
Harbor seal ¹	1	32	2
Bottlenose dolphin ¹	1	32	2
Common dolphin (Long- and Short-beaked) ²	9	288	18
Pacific white-sided dolphin ²	1	32	2
Northern elephant seal	~ ³	7	1
Total		871	55

¹ Average daily counts based on observations during Year 4 Fuel Pier Replacement Project Monitoring (NAVFAC SW 2017b).

² Average daily counts based on observations during Year 2 Fuel Pier Replacement Project Monitoring (NAVFAC SW 2015).

³ Expected potential of two northern elephant seals over the duration of project activity with a +5 buffer for Level B take.

- The attached report provides a preliminary summary of the marine species information collected during pile installation to date. Pile installation activities started in March 1, 2024 and were completed March 20, 2024. Construction employed the use of the impact hammer for 18-inch octagonal concrete piles and 14-inch square concrete piles. Project activities have resulted in 4 (0.83%) Level B Takes of California sea lions out of a total of 480 Level B Takes that were authorized. There were 2 (6.25%) observed Level B Takes for Pacific harbor seals out of an authorized 32. No Level A Take of any species listed under the current IHA occurred during in-water activities. One coastal bottlenose dolphin was observed during Pre-/Post activities that did not result in a Take. No other species covered under the current IHA were observed. Furthermore, no other MMPA-covered species were observed.

- This request fulfills the requirement to submit a preliminary report of activities and to formally request an IHA renewal 60 days before the end of the current IHA time period. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns with the attached documents. Thank-you for your time and consideration.