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CC Mr N Schwartz (V&AW).

Dear Nicolas

Erf 149294 and 176352, V&A Waterfront, East Quay, Cape Town – letter of exemption WRT archaeology.

Thank you for your enquiry with respect to the above mentioned property. I have been to the site and note that it is essentially a landfill resulting from land reclamation over the seabed of Table Bay. The likely sensitivity is maritime archaeology.

Table Bay was the site of literary hundreds of shipwrecks that were mostly wrecked along the old shore line of Table Bay, particularly the Woodstock beach area. Sinking's further out in the bay did occur but not as frequently. The proposed project area was in deeper water and therefore not as sensitive as the old shoreline.

Shipwrecks

I note that the proposed depth of bulk excavation on the East Quay precinct will be to 4m below the existing surface level. An examination of marine charts of Table Bay indicate that the depth of the sea bed around the quay is variable and will have changed in historic times due to construction of the Breakwater. Sea bed depth on the western side of the quay is shallow due to historic silt build up against the breakwater however sea bed depths in the immediate surrounding ocean are 8-10 m bmsl with the harbour entrance being maintained at a depth of 15.9 m. Hence in historic times one can expect a depth of roughly 8-12 m for this area. The target area for historic shipwrecks will be the historic seabed which is far deeper than the proposed depth of excavation. For this reason indications are that excavation to a depth of 4m from the quay surface, or even excavation to a depth of 4m bmsl will not impact any *in situ* maritime archaeology.

The Quay

The Quay is likely to be composed of historic fill, which under the saw-tooth industrial

structure probably dates to the 1880s (Victoria Basin) while the fill that makes up the Heliport is recent late 20th century. Given the recent finds of an historic ammunition dump in fills of the Silo Precinct the possibility of similar finds or discarded industrial material in the older fill cannot be excluded. In the case of the Silo Precinct a good working relationship with MACE and V&AW saw to it that the find was safely removed and taken to a secure location. Provided the similar vigilance is applied in this case in that unexpected finds be reported to an archaeologist, no further measures are required.

The above ground structures should be assessed by an industrial archaeologist.

It is suggested that this letter accompany the HIA for consideration by HWC and SAHRA.

Please indicate to me if I can be of further assistance.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T J G Hart". The letters are written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim Hart
for ACO Associates cc