



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Date of Notice: December 23, 2015

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

IO No. 21003732

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** Chollas Creek Channel Emergency Maintenance (Map 71)/463704

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Mid-City Eastern Area

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 4

**LOCATION:** Emergency maintenance of an earthen bottom riprap channel located between Vista Grande Drive and University Avenue, to the east of Rolando Boulevard

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The emergency action is for the removal of dense vegetation and accumulated sediment from approximately 800 linear feet (LF) in a segment of the Chollas Creek drainage channel. The earthen channel bottom width is 15 feet with a top width of 40 feet. Sediment has built up just west of 6523 University Avenue, and continues downstream to the inlet that runs under Rolando Boulevard. Maintenance ingress/egress to the channel will be from a vacant lot west of 4181 Vista Grande Drive. A Loader will enter from the permanent access point and push material within the channel to a Gradall/Excavator to be scooped and loaded into dump trucks. Once the debris is loaded into dump trucks, it will be taken to the Miramar Landfill for disposal. The emergency work is expected to remove an estimated 4,266 cubic yards (1000-1500 tons) of material.

Land covers and vegetation to be removed include 0.02 acres of riparian scrub (disturbed southern willow scrub), 0.06 acres of natural flood channel, 0.11 acres of disturbed wetland (palm dominated), and 0.02 acres of disturbed land. Total impacts to jurisdictional areas are 0.21 acres (800 LF) of wetland and non-wetland waters of the U.S. The emergency project is not located within or adjacent to the Multi-Habitat Planning Area. **This emergency activity will require subsequent permit review pursuant to the modified Substantial Conformance Review Procedures as described in Chapter 7 of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program (MMP); and the City of San Diego's Land Development Code §143.0126 Emergency Authorization to Impact Environmentally Sensitive Lands. The application shall be submitted within 60 days of completion of the emergency work.**

**ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL:** City of San Diego – Mayor Appointed Designee

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2) and (b)(4) and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15269(b)&(c)

**ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** City of San Diego Mayor Appointed Designee

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This emergency exemption is based on the expert opinion and findings by the Transportation & Storm Water Department (T&SWD). This emergency activity meets the criteria set forth in section 21080(b)(4) of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines section 15269(c) which allow for specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. The work may also include emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service, which are exempt under Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2) and §15269(b) of the CEQA guidelines. Based on an assessment conducted on November 19, 2015 which revealed that sediment and vegetation have accumulated to a depth of approximately 7 feet within the Chollas Creek Channel (Map 71), the T&SWD determined that an imminent threat exists to properties adjacent to the channel. The risk of flooding in this channel is considered extremely high posing an immediate threat to adjacent properties due to sediment constricting the downstream flow capacity and the accumulation of vegetation which precludes the flow of storm water through the channel. Heavy predicted rains expected with the upcoming El Niño storm season increases the potential to dislodge several large palm trees and accumulated vegetation within the channel, putting downstream culverts at risk of clogging, causing severe flooding of upstream sections of the channel as well as adjacent properties. The buildup of sediment and vegetation have obstructed storm water flows within the channel during rains earlier this year, causing recent flooding of adjacent roadways and properties. The removal of approximately 800 LF of vegetation, sediment and debris is necessary to avoid or minimize the threat of loss or damage to life, property or essential public services. Because this segment of the channel is earthen, removal of sediment, vegetation and debris would result in temporary impacts to wetland and non-wetland resources; however, this work is the minimum necessary to prevent and mitigate the emergency in order prevent damage to public & private property and downstream resources

**CITY PROJECT MANAGER:** Gene Matter  
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On December 23, 2015, the City of San Diego made the above-referenced environmental determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This determination is appealable to the City Council. If you have any questions about this project, contact the City (or Development- choose one to be consistent with above) Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal CEQA determination made by staff to the City Council must be filed in the office of the City Clerk within 10 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**January 8, 2016**). The appeal application can be obtained from the City Clerk, 202 'C' Street, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101.

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.