



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Date of Notice: December 15, 2014

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Internal Order No. 21002863

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** San Carlos Channel (Map 54) Emergency Maintenance

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Navajo Community Plan Area

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** District 7

**LOCATION:** San Carlos Storm Water Channel (Map 54), south of Beaver Lake Drive, north of Lake Cayuga Drive, east of Cowles Mountain Boulevard, and west of Lake Badin Avenue.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Emergency maintenance for the removal of vegetation, sediment, trash and debris resulting from a significant rain event in November 2014. In the early morning hours on Saturday, November 1, 2014, approximately 0.5 inches of rain fell in the San Carlos area, causing vegetation and debris within the San Carlos Channel (located south of Beaver Lake Drive, north of Lake Cayuga Drive, east of Cowles Mountain Blvd, and west of Lake Badin Ave) to wash downstream and clog a culvert that runs under Cowles Mountain Blvd. As this clog occurred, flood waters rose and overtopped the banks of the channel. The storm damage, flooding, and additional forecasted rain caused a sudden, unexpected, and imminent threat to life and property requiring immediate action. With another storm forecasted (approx another 0.5") to hit in the late afternoon on the same day, the Transportation & Storm Water Department mobilized crews to take action to avoid further flooding.

The emergency activity involved removal of Arundo, Mexican fan palms, Tamarisk, fennel, and some cattails that had become dislodged and deposited at the end of the open concrete lined channel immediately in front of the pipe during a rain event. Trash and debris including balls, water bottles, a TV, a portion of chain-link fence and other miscellaneous debris were also removed. The uprooted vegetation accumulated at the headwall structure, plugged the 60" culvert and water eventually overtopped the headwall and flooded adjacent properties. Approximately 145 tons of vegetation and debris were removed from the concrete lined channel, pipe, and adjacent access area. This material was removed with a backhoe and front-end loader operating from above the headwall. The vegetation and debris was loaded into a dump truck and hauled to an approved disposal site. Additional vegetation (0.002 acre) and sediment were removed upstream of the culvert by hand along with several large chunks of concrete that had broken free during the rain event. Vegetation and sediment were also removed at the west end of the culvert as it discharges into the Mission Trails Golf Course. Loose vegetation was removed from the culvert. In addition, sediment and cattails were removed for a distance of approximately 180 linear feet in order to eliminate ponding of storm water that was impeding the follow of water through and removal of vegetation within the culvert.

The sediment and cattails (180 square feet) were located in a narrow concrete channel which runs through the golf course. The vegetation that was removed was predominantly non-native invasive species. The removal of vegetation and debris was the minimum necessary to prevent and mitigate the emergency and had no more than a minimal and temporary effect on the aquatic environment. The repair did not result in the placement of fill. The access area will be restored to the pre-existing condition. **This emergency activity will require subsequent permitting pursuant to Land Development Code §143.0126 Emergency Authorization to Impact Environmentally Sensitive Lands** which states “(b) If the emergency work results in permanent impacts to *environmentally sensitive lands*, a subsequent Neighborhood Development Permit or Site Development Permit is required in accordance with all regulations of this division. The application for the Neighborhood Development Permit or Site Development Permit 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 CEQA Section 21080(B)(4) and CEQA State Guidelines Section 15269 (c)

**ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** City of San Diego Planning Department

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This emergency exemption, pursuant to CEQA State Guidelines Sections 15269 (c), applies because immediate action was necessary to alleviate a clog causing sudden and unexpected flooding during a rain event and to prevent additional damage to residential properties adjacent to the clogged culvert and channel. Immediate action was necessary to prevent additional impacts to human health and safety and property damages.

**CITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER:** Helene Deisher  
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On December 12, 2014 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 Development 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 (**December 30, 2014**). 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.