



**Date of Notice:** October 25, 2019

# **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

---

**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** Special Event Permit –Balboa Park December Nights 2019

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Balboa Park

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 3

**LOCATION:** Balboa Park

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Special Event Permit for a specialty lighting and holiday event that would include lights, multi-cultural music, dance performances, carolers, bell ringers, choirs, bands, food preparation, food vendors, a fenced-in spirits garden, carnival rides, stages, portable restrooms, canopies, tables, chairs, and entertainment that would occur on December 6-7, 2019. Noise associated with the event activities and set-up/dismantling would occur from 6 AM on November 18, 2019, until 10 PM on January 3, 2020. Specialty lighting would occur in the park from November 28, 2019 – January 1, 2020. For the December Nights event, the Special Event Permit covers five of the stages occurring throughout the park - the Organ Pavilion, the Bon Temps Social Club Dance Stage, the Botanical Garden Stage, the Cascades Stage, and the Recital Hall Lawn Stage. Sound amplification from the stages would occur from 7 PM until 9 PM on December 5, and from 11:30 AM until 11 PM on December 6-7, 2019. Road closures associated with the event would occur from 6 AM on December 6, 2019 until 12:01 AM on December 8, 2019, and would include El Prado between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pan American Road East, Pan America Way East between El Prado and Presidents Way, Pan America Road West between Pan American Road East and Presidents Way, Presidents Way between Pan American Road East and Park Boulevard, and Village Place between Park Boulevard and El Prado. Onsite parking would be available for attendees and participants. Additional offsite parking would be available throughout the urban core, which could include areas surrounding Balboa Park, downtown, and Mission Valley. A combination of public transit routes, a shuttle system, and a ride share area would service the event site area. On November 18-27, 2019, specialty lighting set-up in the Plaza de Panama would occur from 6 AM until 10 PM. On December 1-5, 2019, event set-up would occur from 6 AM until 10 PM. On December 6, 2019, set-up would occur from 4 AM until 3 PM, the event would occur from 3 PM until 11 PM, and cleanup activities would occur from 11 PM until 12 AM. On December 7, 2019, cleanup activities would occur from 12 AM until 4 AM, set-up would occur from 7 AM until 12 PM, the event would occur from 12 PM until 11 PM, and dismantling would occur from 11 PM until 12 AM. Dismantling of the event would occur from 12:01 AM on December 8 until 10 AM on December 10, 2019. Dismantling of the specialty lighting would occur from 6 AM until 10 PM on January 2-3, 2020.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** CEQA exemptions §Section 15301 (Existing Facilities); §Section 15304(e) (Minor Alterations to Land); §Section 15311 (Accessory Structures); §Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings).

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

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** The City of San Diego conducted an environmental review and determined the project meets the categorical exemption criteria set forth in the CEQA State Guidelines: §Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) which allows for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alterations of existing public or private structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use; §Section 15304(e) (Minor Alterations to Land) which allows for minor, temporary use of land that has negligible or no permanent effects on the environment; §Section 15311 (Accessory Structures) which allows for construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, temporary use items in publicly owned facilities or other facilities designated for public use; §Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings) which allows for the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the project would not represent a change in the operation of the facility.

In addition, the exceptions set forth in the CEQA State Guidelines §15300.2 do not apply to this project wherein: a) the project would not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; b) no cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place were identified; c) there is no reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; d) the project would not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; e) the project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and f) the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

**SPECIAL EVENTS SENIOR PLANNER:** Theresa Millette  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1326, MS 56A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (619) 685-1336

---

On October 24, 2019, 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 determination, contact the City Development Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal CEQA determination made by staff (including the City Manager) 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 (**November 7, 2019**). 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.

**POSTED IN THE OFFICE OF DSD**

**POSTED: 10/23/19**

**Name: T Millette**