**Date of Notice** December 21, 2023

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

21005190

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** **San Clemente Canyon Water Pipe Repair Emergency**
**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** **Clairemont Mesa**
**COUNCIL DISTRICTS:** **2**

**LOCATION:** The project included the repair of a damaged water pipe located approximately 110 feet south of State Route 52 (SR-52) and 1,800 feet east of Genesee Avenue, within the San Clemente Canyon (Marian Bear Park). The project area is within the Clairemont Mesa Community Planning Area; Council District 2; the repair site is not in the City's Multi Habitat Planning Area (MHPA).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**: The City PUD discovered a water main break in San Clemente Canyon on July 7, 2023. As a result of the water main break, a sinkhole developed on the disturbed land above and surrounding the piping and discharged sediment. The City halted the water supply to minimize further damage and then repaired the damaged waterpipe. The pipe was located within the understory of riparian woodland in a patch of bare ground (disturbed land) adjacent to an ephemeral drainage. All work was conducted by hand due to the location and sensitivity of the project site, so buckets of decomposed granite were used to backfill the sinkhole rather than using heavy equipment. The ephemeral drainage was not impacted from the pipe repair.

Biological monitoring was conducted throughout duration of construction activities to monitor for potential impacts to the riparian woodland and adjacent vegetation, as well as any sensitive species impacts. A break from construction occurred from July 26 to August 2, 2023. All work was completed on August 2, 2023.

The overall construction footprint was minimized to the degree feasible to safely complete the emergency repair. Vehicle and equipment staging occurred on the paved shoulder of SR-52 and the project site was accessed on foot via an existing footpath. The footpath was not considered to be impacted since it was mostly non-vegetated from previous disturbance and no additional disturbance occurred because of project activities. The sinkhole that developed from the water main break impacted approximately 45 square feet. No mitigation is required as the sinkhole in within bare ground (disturbed land).

**ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL:** City of San Diego

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 (B) & (C) Emergency Projects

**ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** City of San Diego Public Utilities Department

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This emergency exemption is based on the expert opinion and findings by the Public Utilities Department. Immediate action was necessary to halt the water supply to prevent further damage to the break area and to prevent damage to the ephemeral drainage as the result of the pressurized water release. Furthermore, the project meets the criteria set forth in CEQA section 15269(b & c) which allows for actions necessary to repair public services and to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Coratti III
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123
**PHONE NUMBER:** (619) 533-4622

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On December 21, 2023, 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 Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal the CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed with the Office of the Clerk within five (5) business days from the date of the posting of this Notice **(December 29, 2023)**. Per the revised Public Notice issued by the Office of the City Clerk on September 28, 2021, appeals to the City Clerk must be filed via e-mail or in-person as follows:

1. Appeals filed via Email: The Environmental Determination Appeal Application Form DS-3031can be obtained at: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/development-services/pdf/industry/forms/ds3031.pdf. Send the completed appeal form (including grounds for appeal and supporting documentation in pdf format) by email to Hearings1@sandiego.gov by 5:00p.m. on the last day of the appeal period; your email appeal will be acknowledged within 24 business hours. You must separately mail the appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: City Clerk/Appeal, MS 2A, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101. The appeal filing fee must be United States Postal Service (USPS) postmarked) before or on the final date of the appeal.

2. Appeals filed In-Person: The Environmental Determination Appeal Application Form DS-3031 can be obtained at: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/development-services/pdf/industry/forms/ds3031.pdf. Bring the fully completed appeal application DS-3031 (including grounds for appeal and supporting documentation) to the City Administration Building— Public Information Counter (Open 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday excluding City approved holidays), 1st Floor Lobby, located at 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, by 5:00pm on the last day of the appeal period. The completed appeal form shall include the required appeal fee, with a check payable to: City Treasurer.

The appeal application can also 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.