



Date of Notice: May 10, 2021

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

21002797

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** Morena Dam Spillway Maintenance  
**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** N/A – County of San Diego, Community of Campo  
**COUNCIL DISTRICTS:** N/A - Campo

**LOCATION:** Morena Dam in east San Diego County. Morena Dam is owned and operated by the City of San Diego. The dam is accessed through public land located in the community of Campo in the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego. Morena Dam and Reservoir are in unincorporated lands outside the County of San Diego MSCP Sub-Area Plan.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Consistent with the Morena Dam Spillway Condition Assessment, maintenance of the spillway will include removal of all vegetation and debris (including all boulders), and surficial repairs such as filling holes, joints, and cracks with sealant to prevent infiltration of water and buildup of stagnation pressures, as well as patching spalls and areas of exposed steel to prevent further damage to the spillway. Removal of vegetation and debris is critical to the functioning of the spillway, as they reduce the design capacity of and prevent proper inspection of the spillway. In addition, the boulders have caused damage to the spillway. The concrete repairs are critical to keeping the integrity of the spillway intact and functioning. All boulders will be placed just beyond the end of the dam spillway.

This maintenance work will be performed on an existing structure, and therefore, will not result in a direct significant impact to biological resources. The native plant species that have overgrown into the spillway are limited to a few individuals and not considered habitat. All equipment will remain on existing roads or the developed dam structure itself. Any equipment needed to remove the boulders or to perform the spillway repairs will be evaluated for indirect impacts (i.e. noise), and if found to be out of compliance with noise restrictions to listed species, work will be performed outside of the bird-breeding season. Repairs and maintenance to the spillway shall be completed in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, specifically, the Standard of Rehabilitation, to preserve the essential character-defining features of the dam that qualify it for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. The placing of boulders just beyond the dam spillway will not result in a direct significant impact to biological resources. Native plant species exist in this area but impacts to them will be avoided by placing the boulders in locations they are not currently growing. The boulder placement will also avoid a significant impact to archeological resources as there are no known archaeological sites in this area.

**ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL:** City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION: 15301(M) EXISTING FACILITIES

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

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This exemption is based on the expert opinion and findings by the Public Utilities Department. This maintenance work is critical in keeping the spillway functioning properly and efficiently for its intended use and will not result in a significant impact to the environment based on the analysis in the description of this document and where the exceptions listed in CEQA Section 15300.2 would not apply in that no cumulative impacts were identified; no significant effect on the environment were identified; the project is not adjacent to a scenic highway; no historical resources would be affected by the action; and the project was not identified on a list of hazardous waste sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Furthermore, this project meets the criteria set forth in the CEQA section 15301 (M) Existing Facilities which allows for minor repairs to existing dams and appurtenant structures.

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Carlos Cruz, Public Utilities Department

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123

**PHONE NUMBER:** (858) 292-6499

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On May 10, 2021 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 CEQA determinations 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 (May 24, 2021). During the Statewide "Safer-at-Home" directive to reduce the spread of COVID-19, beginning March 19, 2020, appeals to the City Clerk must be filed by email or US Mail as follows:

- 1) Appeals filed via E-mail: Send the appeal by email to [Hearings1@sanidiego.gov](mailto:Hearings1@sanidiego.gov); your email appeal will be acknowledged within 24 hours. The [appeal application can be obtained here](#). 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 postmarked within 5 business days of the date the appeal is filed.
- 2) Appeals filed via US Mail: Send the appeal by US Mail to City Clerk/Appeal, MS 2A, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101. Appeals filed by US Mail must have a United States Postal Service (USPS) postmark by the appeal deadline to be considered valid. The [appeal application can be obtained here](#). You must separately mail the required 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 postmarked within 5 business days of the date the appeal is filed.

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