

### **FINAL**

#### MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project No. 594590 SCH# N/A

SUBJECT: GROUP 160621 UNDERGOUND UTILITY DISTRICTS: CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL to prioritize and construct the Group 160621 Undergrounding Utility Districts (UUD). The districts would also create an overlay that would restrict utility companies from installing above-ground utility lines, excluding electric transmission lines which are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, in the future. SDG&E will be constructing an underground utility system per the franchise agreement in the public right-of-way (ROW). The project proposes to underground the overhead utility lines by excavating approximately 16.2 miles of trench that is approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of the public ROW, installing conduit and substructures such as transformers and pedestals on concrete pads, installing cable through the conduit, backfilling, removing the existing overhead utility lines and poles, and installing new streetlights where applicable. Transformer boxes and pedestals will be installed in the public ROW or a utility easement. Individual customer connections will be made by boring laterally underground from the main line in the ROW to the location of the customer's electric service box to install conduit and cable. If lateral boring is not feasible, open trenches approximately three feet deep and two feet wide will be dug and surfaces restored to preexisting conditions when work is complete. Some properties may require electric service box upgrades, relocation, and/or installation of conduit on the exterior of the building. Utility poles may need to be installed or upgraded at the boundary of the district where determined necessary for the transition from the existing aerial system to the new underground system. Locations of any new poles, streetlights, transformer boxes, and pedestals will be determined during utility system design and a community forum will be held to allow residents to provide input on final designs.

After utilities are undergrounded, street trees may be installed in the right-of way if conditions allow it and property owners sign an agreement to water the tree until it is established. Curb ramps would also be installed, where necessary, to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, which may result in the loss of a street parking space at some locations. It should also be noted that the project may replace previously conforming curb ramps to meet current City and ADA standards. In addition, sidewalk repairs, preservation of historical stamps, and street resurfacing or replacement of segments of concrete road will be done as needed. Any street tree removal, relocation, and/or trimming would be done under the supervision of the City Arborist.

The project is located within the public ROW, as well as several City and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) easements, in the following areas: **UU229 Residential Project Block 1H** (La Jolla); **UU292 Residential Project Block 4X** (Skyline-Paradise Hills); **UU293 Residential Project Block 4X 1** (Skyline-Paradise Hills); **UU819 Residential Project Block 8I** (Southeastern San Diego); **UU820 Residential Project Block 8H** (Downtown/Barrio Logan); **UU823 Residential Project Block 8N** (Southeastern San Diego); **UU906 Residential Project Block 3CC1** (Mid-City: Kensington-Talmadge).

Applicant: City of San Diego, Transportation Department, Right of Way Coordination Division

- I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: See attached Initial Study.
- II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: See attached Initial Study.

#### III. DETERMINATION:

The City of San Diego conducted an Initial Study which determined that the proposed projects could have a significant environmental effect in the following areas(s): **LAND USE (MSCP/MHPA)** and **HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGY) AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**. The project proposal requires the implementation of specific mitigation identified in Section V of this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The project as presented avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects identified, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would not be required.

#### IV. DOCUMENTATION:

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above Determination.

V. MITIGATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM:

## A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – PART I Plan Check Phase (prior to permit issuance or Notice to Proceed)

- 1. Prior to the issuance Bid Opening/Bid Award or beginning any construction related activity on-site, the Development Services Department (DSD) Director's Environmental Designee (ED) shall review and approve all Construction Documents (CD), (plans, specification, details, etc.) to ensure the MMRP requirements have been incorporated.
- 2. In addition, the ED shall verify that the MMRP Conditions/Notes that apply ONLY to the construction phases of this project are included VERBATIM, under the heading, "ENVIRONMENTAL/MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS."
- **3**. These notes must be shown within the first three (3) sheets of the construction documents in the format specified for engineering construction document templates as shown on the City website:

http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/information/standtemp.shtml

**4**. The **TITLE INDEX SHEET** must also show on which pages the "Environmental/Mitigation Requirements" notes are provided.

## B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – PART II Post Plan Check (After permit issuance/Prior to start of construction)

1. PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING IS REQUIRED TEN (10) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING ANY WORK ON THIS PROJECT. The PERMIT HOLDER/OWNER is responsible to arrange and perform this meeting by contacting the CITY RESIDENT ENGINEER (RE) of the Field Engineering Division and City staff from MITIGATION MONITORING

COORDINATION (MMC). Attendees must also include the Permit holder's Representative(s), Job Site Superintendent and the following consultants:

#### Biological Monitor, Archaeologist and Native American Kumeyaay Monitor

Note: Failure of all responsible Permit Holder's representatives and consultants to attend shall require an additional meeting with all parties present.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

- a) The PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT is the **RE** at the **Field Engineering Division – 858-627-3200**
- b) For Clarification of ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS, it is also required to call **RE** and MMC at 858-627-3360
- 2. MMRP COMPLIANCE: This Project, Project Tracking System (PTS) 463483, shall conform to the mitigation requirements contained in the associated Environmental Document and implemented to the satisfaction of the DSD's ED, MMC and the City Engineer (RE). The requirements may not be reduced or changed but may be annotated (i.e. to explain when and how compliance is being met and location of verifying proof, etc.). Additional clarifying information may also be added to other relevant plan sheets and/or specifications as appropriate (i.e., specific locations, times of monitoring, methodology, etc.)

Note: Permit Holder's Representatives must alert RE and MMC if there are any discrepancies in the plans or notes, or any changes due to field conditions. All conflicts must be approved by RE and MMC BEFORE the work is performed.

- 3. OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS: Evidence that any other agency requirements or permits have been obtained or are in process shall be submitted to the RE and MMC for review and acceptance prior to the beginning of work or within one week of the Permit Holder obtaining documentation of those permits or requirements. Evidence shall include copies of permits, letters of resolution or other documentation issued by the responsible agency. Not Applicable for this project.
- 4. MONITORING EXHIBITS: All consultants are required to submit, to RE and MMC, a monitoring exhibit on a 11x17 reduction of the appropriate construction plan, such as site plan, grading, landscape, etc., marked to clearly show the specific areas including the LIMIT OF WORK, scope of that discipline's work, and notes indicating when in the construction schedule that work will be performed. When necessary for clarification, a detailed methodology of how the work will be performed shall be included.
- **5. OTHER SUBMITTALS AND INSPECTIONS:** The Permit Holder/Owner's representative shall submit all required documentation, verification letters, and requests for all associated inspections to the RE and MMC for approval per the following schedule:

#### **Document Submittal/Inspection Checklist**

Issue Area	Document submittal	Associated Inspection/Approvals/Note
General	Consultant Qualification Letters	Prior to Preconstruction Meeting
General	Consultant Const. Monitoring	Prior to or at Preconstruction Mtg
Land Use/MSCP	Consultant Const. Monitoring	LUAG/MSCP Compliance
Archaeology	Archaeology Monitoring Reports	Archaeology Observation
Final MMRP		Final MMRP Inspection

#### C. SPECIFIC ISSUE AREA CONDITIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

#### HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGY) AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### I. Prior to Permit Issuance or Bid Opening/Bid Award

- A. Entitlements Plan Check
  - 1. Prior to permit issuance or Bid Opening/Bid Award, whichever is applicable, the Assistant Deputy Director (ADD) Environmental designee shall verify that the requirements for Archaeological Monitoring and Native American monitoring have been noted on the applicable construction documents through the plan check process.
- B. Letters of Qualification have been submitted to ADD
  - Prior to Bid Award, the applicant shall submit a letter of verification to Mitigation Monitoring Coordination (MMC) identifying the Principal Investigator (PI) for the project and the names of all persons involved in the archaeological monitoring program, as defined in the City of San Diego Historical Resources Guidelines (HRG). If applicable, individuals involved in the archaeological monitoring program must have completed the 40-hour HAZWOPER training with certification documentation.
  - 2. MMC will provide a letter to the applicant confirming the qualifications of the PI and all persons involved in the archaeological monitoring of the project meet the qualifications established in the HRG.
  - 3. Prior to the start of work, the applicant must obtain written approval from MMC for any personnel changes associated with the monitoring program.

#### II. Prior to Start of Construction

- A. Verification of Records Search
  - 1. The PI shall provide verification to MMC that a site-specific records search (1/4 mile radius) has been completed. Verification includes, but is not limited to a copy of a confirmation letter from South Coastal Information Center, or, if the search was inhouse, a letter of verification from the PI stating that the search was completed.
  - 2. The letter shall introduce any pertinent information concerning expectations and probabilities of discovery during trenching and/or grading activities.
  - 3. The PI may submit a detailed letter to MMC requesting a reduction to the ¼ mile radius.
- B. PI Shall Attend Precon Meetings
  - Prior to beginning any work that requires monitoring; the Applicant shall arrange a
    Precon Meeting that shall include the PI, Native American consultant/monitor (where
    Native American resources may be impacted), Construction Manager (CM) and/or
    Grading Contractor, Resident Engineer (RE), Building Inspector (BI), if appropriate, and
    MMC. The qualified Archaeologist and Native American Monitor shall attend any
    grading/excavation related Precon Meetings to make comments and/or suggestions
    concerning the Archaeological Monitoring program with the Construction Manager
    and/or Grading Contractor.

- a. If the PI is unable to attend the Precon Meeting, the Applicant shall schedule a focused Precon Meeting with MMC, the PI, RE, CM or BI, if appropriate, prior to the start of any work that requires monitoring.
- 2. Acknowledgement of Responsibility for Curation (CIP or Other Public Projects)
  The applicant shall submit a letter to MMC acknowledging their responsibility for the cost of curation associated with all phases of the archaeological monitoring program.
- 3. Identify Areas to be Monitored
  - a. Prior to the start of any work that requires monitoring, the PI shall submit an Archaeological Monitoring Exhibit (AME) (with verification that the AME has been reviewed and approved by the Native American consultant/monitor when Native American resources may be impacted) based on the appropriate construction documents (reduced to 11x17) to MMC identifying the areas to be monitored including the delineation of grading/excavation limits.
  - b. The AME shall be based on the results of a site-specific records search as well as information regarding the age of existing pipelines, laterals and associated appurtenances and/or any known soil conditions (native or formation).
  - c. MMC shall notify the PI that the AME has been approved.
- 4. When Monitoring Will Occur
  - a. Prior to the start of any work, the PI shall also submit a construction schedule to MMC through the RE indicating when and where monitoring will occur.
  - b. The PI may submit a detailed letter to MMC prior to the start of work or during construction requesting a modification to the monitoring program. This request shall be based on relevant information such as review of final construction documents which indicate conditions such as age of existing pipe to be replaced, depth of excavation and/or site graded to bedrock, etc., which may reduce or increase the potential for resources to be present.
- 5. Approval of AME and Construction Schedule
  After approval of the AME by MMC, the PI shall submit to MMC written authorization of
  the AME and Construction Schedule from the CM.

#### **III. During Construction**

- A. Monitor Shall be Present During Grading/Excavation/Trenching
  - The Archaeological Monitor shall be present full-time during all soil disturbing and grading/excavation/trenching activities which could result in impacts to archaeological resources as identified on the AME. The Construction Manager is responsible for notifying the RE, PI, and MMC of changes to any construction activities such as in the case of a potential safety concern within the area being monitored. In certain circumstances OSHA safety requirements may necessitate modification of the AME.
  - 2. The Native American consultant/monitor shall determine the extent of their presence during soil disturbing and grading/excavation/trenching activities based on the AME and provide that information to the PI and MMC. If prehistoric resources are encountered during the Native American consultant/monitor's absence, work shall stop and the Discovery Notification Process detailed in Section III.B-C and IV.A-D shall commence.
  - 3. The PI may submit a detailed letter to MMC during construction requesting a modification to the monitoring program when a field condition such as modern disturbance post-dating the previous grading/trenching activities, presence of fossil formations, or when native soils are encountered that may reduce or increase the potential for resources to be present.

- 4. The archaeological and Native American consultant/monitor shall document field activity via the Consultant Site Visit Record (CSVR). The CSVR's shall be faxed by the CM to the RE the first day of monitoring, the last day of monitoring, monthly (Notification of Monitoring Completion), and in the case of ANY discoveries. The RE shall forward copies to MMC.
- B. Discovery Notification Process
  - 1. In the event of a discovery, the Archaeological Monitor shall direct the contractor to temporarily divert all soil disturbing activities, including but not limited to digging, trenching, excavating or grading activities in the area of discovery and in the area reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent resources and immediately notify the RE or BI, as appropriate.
  - 2. The Monitor shall immediately notify the PI (unless Monitor is the PI) of the discovery.
  - 3. The PI shall immediately notify MMC by phone of the discovery, and shall also submit written documentation to MMC within 24 hours by fax or email with photos of the resource in context, if possible.
  - 4. No soil shall be exported off-site until a determination can be made regarding the significance of the resource specifically if Native American resources are encountered.
- C. Determination of Significance
  - 1. The PI and Native American consultant/monitor, where Native American resources are discovered shall evaluate the significance of the resource. If Human Remains are involved, follow protocol in Section IV below.
    - a. The PI shall immediately notify MMC by phone to discuss significance determination and shall also submit a letter to MMC indicating whether additional mitigation is required.
    - b. If the resource is significant, the PI shall submit an Archaeological Data Recovery Program (ADRP) and obtain written approval of the program from MMC, CM and RE. ADRP and any mitigation must be approved by MMC, RE and/or CM before ground disturbing activities in the area of discovery will be allowed to resume. Note: If a unique archaeological site is also an historical resource as defined in CEQA Section 15064.5, then the limits on the amount(s) that a project applicant may be required to pay to cover mitigation costs as indicated in CEQA Section 21083.2 shall not apply.
      - (1). Note: For pipeline trenching and other linear projects in the public Right-of-Way, the PI shall implement the Discovery Process for Pipeline Trenching projects identified below under "D."
    - c. If the resource is not significant, the PI shall submit a letter to MMC indicating that artifacts will be collected, curated, and documented in the Final Monitoring Report. The letter shall also indicate that that no further work is required.
      - (1). Note: For Pipeline Trenching and other linear projects in the public Right-of-Way, if the deposit is limited in size, both in length and depth; the information value is limited and is not associated with any other resource; and there are no unique features/artifacts associated with the deposit, the discovery should be considered not significant.
      - (2). Note, for Pipeline Trenching and other linear projects in the public Right-of-Way, if significance cannot be determined, the Final Monitoring Report and Site Record (DPR Form 523A/B) shall identify the discovery as Potentially Significant.
- D. Discovery Process for Significant Resources Pipeline Trenching and other Linear Projects in the Public Right-of-Way
  - The following procedure constitutes adequate mitigation of a significant discovery encountered during pipeline trenching activities or for other linear project types within the

Public Right-of-Way including but not limited to excavation for jacking pits, receiving pits, laterals, and manholes to reduce impacts to below a level of significance:

- 1. Procedures for documentation, curation and reporting
  - a. One hundred percent of the artifacts within the trench alignment and width shall be documented in-situ, to include photographic records, plan view of the trench and profiles of side walls, recovered, photographed after cleaning and analyzed and curated. The remainder of the deposit within the limits of excavation (trench walls) shall be left intact.
  - b. The PI shall prepare a Draft Monitoring Report and submit to MMC via the RE as indicated in Section VI-A.
  - c. The PI shall be responsible for recording (on the appropriate State of California Department of Park and Recreation forms-DPR 523 A/B) the resource(s) encountered during the Archaeological Monitoring Program in accordance with the City's Historical Resources Guidelines. The DPR forms shall be submitted to the South Coastal Information Center for either a Primary Record or SDI Number and included in the Final Monitoring Report.
  - d. The Final Monitoring Report shall include a recommendation for monitoring of any future work in the vicinity of the resource.

#### IV. Discovery of Human Remains

If human remains are discovered, work shall halt in that area and no soil shall be exported offsite until a determination can be made regarding the provenance of the human remains; and the following procedures as set forth in CEQA Section 15064.5(e), the California Public Resources Code (Sec. 5097.98) and State Health and Safety Code (Sec. 7050.5) shall be undertaken:

#### A. Notification

- 1. Archaeological Monitor shall notify the RE or BI as appropriate, MMC, and the PI, if the Monitor is not qualified as a PI. MMC will notify the appropriate Senior Planner in the Environmental Analysis Section (EAS) of the Development Services Department to assist with the discovery notification process.
- 2. The PI shall notify the Medical Examiner after consultation with the RE, either in person or via telephone.

#### B. Isolate discovery site

- 1. Work shall be directed away from the location of the discovery and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent human remains until a determination can be made by the Medical Examiner in consultation with the PI concerning the provenience of the remains.
- 2. The Medical Examiner, in consultation with the PI, will determine the need for a field examination to determine the provenience.
- 3. If a field examination is not warranted, the Medical Examiner will determine with input from the PI, if the remains are or are most likely to be of Native American origin.

#### C. If Human Remains **ARE** determined to be Native American

- 1. The Medical Examiner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. By law, **ONLY** the Medical Examiner can make this call.
- 2. NAHC will immediately identify the person or persons determined to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) and provide contact information.
- 3. The MLD will contact the PI within 24 hours or sooner after the Medical Examiner has completed coordination, to begin the consultation process in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5(e), the California Public Resources and Health & Safety Codes.

- 4. The MLD will have 48 hours to make recommendations to the property owner or representative, for the treatment or disposition with proper dignity, of the human remains and associated grave goods.
- 5. Disposition of Native American Human Remains will be determined between the MLD and the PI, and, if:
  - a. The NAHC is unable to identify the MLD, OR the MLD failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being granted access to the site, OR;
  - b. The landowner or authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the MLD and mediation in accordance with PRC 5097.94 (k) by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American human remains with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further and future subsurface disturbance, THEN
  - c. To protect these sites, the landowner shall do one or more of the following:
    - (1) Record the site with the NAHC;
    - (2) Record an open space or conservation easement; or
    - (3) Record a document with the County. The document shall be titled "Notice of Reinterment of Native American Remains" and shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, and the owner's acknowledged signature, in addition to any other information required by PRC 5097.98. The document shall be indexed as a notice under the name of the owner.
  - d. Upon the discovery of multiple Native American human remains during a ground disturbing land development activity, the landowner may agree that additional conferral with descendants is necessary to consider culturally appropriate treatment of multiple Native American human remains. Culturally appropriate treatment of such a discovery may be ascertained from review of the site utilizing cultural and archaeological standards. Where the parties are unable to agree on the appropriate treatment measures the human remains and buried with Native American human remains shall be reinterred with appropriate dignity, pursuant to Section 5.c., above.
- D. If Human Remains are **NOT** Native American
  - 1. The PI shall contact the Medical Examiner and notify them of the historic era context of the burial.
  - 2. The Medical Examiner will determine the appropriate course of action with the PI and City staff (PRC 5097.98).
  - 3. If the remains are of historic origin, they shall be appropriately removed and conveyed to the San Diego Museum of Man for analysis. The decision for internment of the human remains shall be made in consultation with MMC, EAS, the applicant/landowner, any known descendant group, and the San Diego Museum of Man.

#### V. Night and/or Weekend Work

- A. If night and/or weekend work is included in the contract
  - 1. When night and/or weekend work is included in the contract package, the extent and timing shall be presented and discussed at the precon meeting.
  - 2. The following procedures shall be followed.
    - a. No Discoveries
       In the event that no discoveries were encountered during night and/or weekend work, the PI shall record the information on the CSVR and submit to MMC via fax by 8AM of the next business day.
    - b. Discoveries

- All discoveries shall be processed and documented using the existing procedures detailed in Sections III During Construction, and IV Discovery of Human Remains. Discovery of human remains shall always be treated as a significant discovery.
- Potentially Significant Discoveries
   If the PI determines that a potentially significant discovery has been made, the procedures detailed under Section III During Construction and IV-Discovery of Human Remains shall be followed.
- d. The PI shall immediately contact the RE and MMC, or by 8AM of the next business day to report and discuss the findings as indicated in Section III-B, unless other specific arrangements have been made.
- B. If night and/or weekend work becomes necessary during the course of construction
  - 1. The Construction Manager shall notify the RE, or BI, as appropriate, a minimum of 24 hours before the work is to begin.
  - 2. The RE, or BI, as appropriate, shall notify MMC immediately.
- C. All other procedures described above shall apply, as appropriate.

#### VI. Post Construction

- A. Submittal of Draft Monitoring Report
  - 1. The PI shall submit two copies of the Draft Monitoring Report (even if negative), prepared in accordance with the Historical Resources Guidelines (Appendix C/D) which describes the results, analysis, and conclusions of all phases of the Archaeological Monitoring Program (with appropriate graphics) to MMC via the RE for review and approval within 90 days following the completion of monitoring. It should be noted that if the PI is unable to submit the Draft Monitoring Report within the allotted 90-day timeframe as a result of delays with analysis, special study results or other complex issues, a schedule shall be submitted to MMC establishing agreed due dates and the provision for submittal of monthly status reports until this measure can be met.
    - a. For significant archaeological resources encountered during monitoring, the Archaeological Data Recovery Program or Pipeline Trenching Discovery Process shall be included in the Draft Monitoring Report.
    - b. Recording Sites with State of California Department of Parks and Recreation The PI shall be responsible for recording (on the appropriate State of California Department of Park and Recreation forms-DPR 523 A/B) any significant or potentially significant resources encountered during the Archaeological Monitoring Program in accordance with the City's Historical Resources Guidelines, and submittal of such forms to the South Coastal Information Center with the Final Monitoring Report.
  - 2. MMC shall return the Draft Monitoring Report to the PI via the RE for revision or, for preparation of the Final Report.
  - 3. The PI shall submit revised Draft Monitoring Report to MMC via the RE for approval.
  - 4. MMC shall provide written verification to the PI of the approved report.
  - 5. MMC shall notify the RE or BI, as appropriate, of receipt of all Draft Monitoring Report submittals and approvals.
- B. Handling of Artifacts
  - 1. The PI shall be responsible for ensuring that all cultural remains collected are cleaned and catalogued
  - 2. The PI shall be responsible for ensuring that all artifacts are analyzed to identify function and chronology as they relate to the history of the area; that faunal material is identified as to species; and that specialty studies are completed, as appropriate.

- C. Curation of artifacts: Accession Agreement and Acceptance Verification
  - 1. The PI shall be responsible for ensuring that all artifacts associated with the survey, testing and/or data recovery for this project are permanently curated with an appropriate institution. This shall be completed in consultation with MMC and the Native American representative, as applicable.
  - 2. When applicable to the situation, the PI shall include written verification from the Native American consultant/monitor indicating that Native American resources were treated in accordance with state law and/or applicable agreements. If the resources were reinterred, verification shall be provided to show what protective measures were taken to ensure no further disturbance occurs in accordance with Section IV Discovery of Human Remains, Subsection C.
  - 3. The PI shall submit the Accession Agreement and catalogue record(s) to the RE or BI, as appropriate for donor signature with a copy submitted to MMC.
  - 4. The RE or BI, as appropriate shall obtain signature on the Accession Agreement and shall return to PI with copy submitted to MMC.
  - 5. The PI shall include the Acceptance Verification from the curation institution in the Final Monitoring Report submitted to the RE or BI and MMC.
- D. Final Monitoring Report(s)
  - 1. The PI shall submit one copy of the approved Final Monitoring Report to the RE or BI as appropriate, and one copy to MMC (even if negative), within 90 days after notification from MMC of the approved report.
  - 2. The RE shall, in no case, issue the Notice of Completion until receiving a copy of the approved Final Monitoring Report from MMC which includes the Acceptance Verification from the curation institution.

#### **PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION:**

Draft copies or notice of this Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

#### City of San Diego:

Mayor's Office

Council President Georgette Gómez, Council District 9

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry, Council District 1

Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Council District 2

Councilmember Chris Ward, Council District 3

Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Council District 4

Councilmember Mark Kersey, Council District 5

Councilmember Chris cate Council District 6

Councilmember Scott Sherman, Council District 7

Councilmember Moreno, Council District 8

Office of the City Attorney

Transportation & Storm Water Department (Applicant Department)

Planning Department

**Development Services Department** 

Economic Development Department - Urban Division

Public Utilities Department

**Public Works Department** 

Parks and Recreation Department

Real Estate Assets Department

Library Dept.-Gov. Documents (81)

Beckwourth Branch Library (81C)

Kensington-Normal Heights Branch Library (81K)

La Jolla/Riford Branch Library (81L)

Logan Heights Branch Library (81N)

Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center (810)

Paradise Hills Branch Library (81Y)

Skyline Hills Branch Library (81HH)

#### Other Groups and Individuals

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (23)

California Department of Fish & Wildlife (32)

San Diego Gas and Electric (114)

San Diego Transit Corporation (112)

Tony Raso, San Diego Unified School District (125)

Sierra Club (165)

San Diego Canyonlands (165A)

San Diego Audubon Society (167)

Jim Peugh (167A)

California Native Plant Society (170)

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La Jolla Light (280)

Patricia K Miller (283)

Kensington Talmadge Planning Committee (290)

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee (302)

Talmadge Community Council (307)

Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Committee (443)

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Campo Band of Mission Indians (225B)

Ewijaapaayp Band of Mission Indians (225C)

Inaja Band of Mission Indians (225D)

Jamul Indian Village (225E)

La Posta Band of Mission Indians (225F)

Manzanita Band of Mission Indians (225G)

Sycuan Band of Mission Indians (225H)

Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (2251)

Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (225J)

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (225K)

Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel (225L)

La Jolla Band of Mission Indians (225M)

Pala Band of Mission Indians (225N)

Pauma Band of Mission Indians (2250)

Pechanga Band of Mission Indians (225P)

Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians (225Q)

San Luis Rey Band of Luiseno Indians (225R)

Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians (225S)

#### **RESULTS OF PUBLIC REVIEW:**

- ( ) No comments were received during the public input period.
- ( ) Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration finding or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.
- (X) Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public input period. The letters and responses follow.

Copies of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program and any Initial Study material are available in the office of the Planning Department for review, or for purchase at the cost of reproduction.

Myra Herrmann, Senior Planner

Planning Department

August 10, 2020 Date of Draft Report

September 14, 2020 Date of Final Report

Attachments:

Undergrounding Utility Districts Project Boundaries (Figures 1-7) Initial Study Checklist

**LETTER** RESPONSE

### Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

#### CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

One Government Center Lane | Valley Center | CA 92082 (760) 749-1051 | Fax: (760) 749-8901 | rincon-nsn.gov

August 11, 2020



Re: Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts

Dear Ms. Herrmann,

This letter is written on behalf of Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, ("Rincon Band" or "Band"), a federally recognized Indian Tribe and sovereign government.

The Band has received the notification for the above referenced project. The location identified within project documents is not within the Band's specific Area of Historic Interest (AHI).

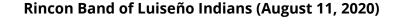
A-1 At this time, we have no additional information to provide. We recommend that you directly contact a Tribe that is closer to the project and may have pertinent information.

Thank you for submitting this project for Tribal review. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at your convenience at (760) 297-2635 or via electronic mail at crd@rincon-nsn.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to protect and preserve our cultural assets.

Sincerely,

Administrative Assistant II Cultural Resources Department



A-1 Comment noted. As indicated in the Final MND, a Native American (Kumeyaay) monitor will be on-site to monitor during the archaeological data recovery program and any ground disturbing activities associated with project implementation.

### San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.

Environmental Review Committee

14 August 2020

To:

Ms. Myra Herrmann Planning Department City of San Diego 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413 San Diego, California 92123

Subject:

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts

Project No. 594590

Dear Ms. Herrmann:

I have reviewed the subject DMND on behalf of this committee of the San Diego County Archaeological Society.

Based on the information contained in the DMND and initial study posted on the City's website, we agree with the archaeological monitoring program as proposed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment upon this project.

Sincerely,

Lemes W. Royle, Jr., Chairperson Environmental Review Committee

cc: SDCAS President

P.O. Box 81106 San Diego, CA 92138-1106 (858) 538-0935

San Diego Archaeological Society (August 14, 2020)

A-2 Comment noted.

**LETTER RESPONSE** 



### Save Our Heritage Organisation Protecting San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage since 1969

Monday, August 24, 2020

Myra Herrmann, Senior Environmental Planner City of San Diego Planning Department 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413 San Diego, CA 92123

Re: Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts (UUD), Project No. 594590

Ms. Herrmann,

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) has reviewed the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts, Project No. 594590, and supports the project as presented, which includes specific mitigation for historical and tribal cultural resources.

A-3

SOHO acknowledges and supports the preservation of historical sidewalk stamps and benefit to scenic vistas by removing unsightly overhead lines/poles and improving visual quality. We also support holding a design forum to present proposed locations for equipment and stakeholder input, especially in areas where the concentration of historical resources is high. Further, we recognize that Historical Resources staff will review the placement of exterior equipment on historical resources (with the issuance of conversion permits) and that Native American monitoring would be required during all trenching activities within the district boundaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bruce Coons Executive Director

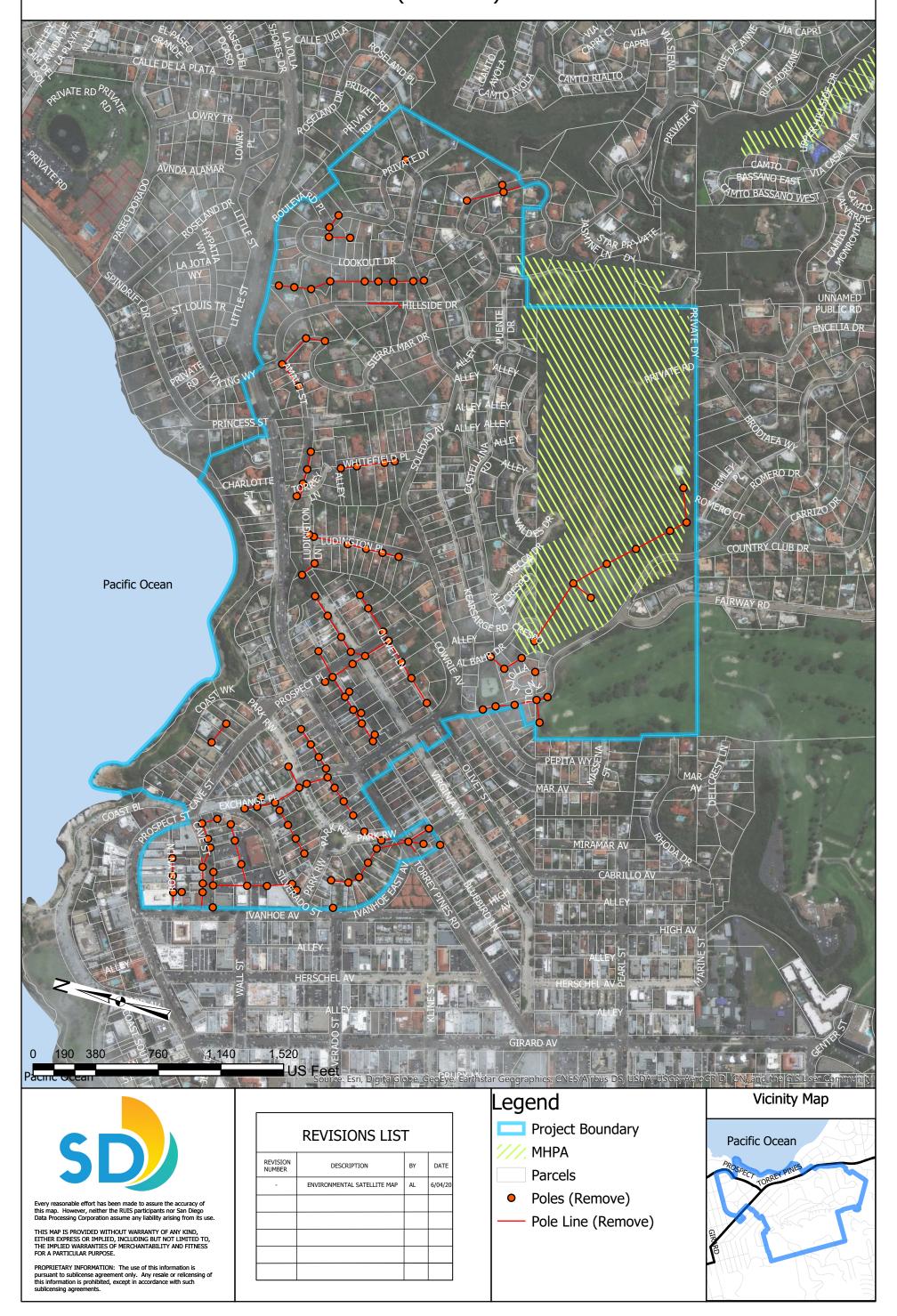
Save Our Heritage Organisation

**Save Our Heritage Organisation (August 24, 2020)** 

A-3 Comment noted.

2476 San Diego Avenue • San Diego CA 92110 • www.SOHOsandlego.org • 619/297-9327

# RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 1H- UU229 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (LA JOLLA)

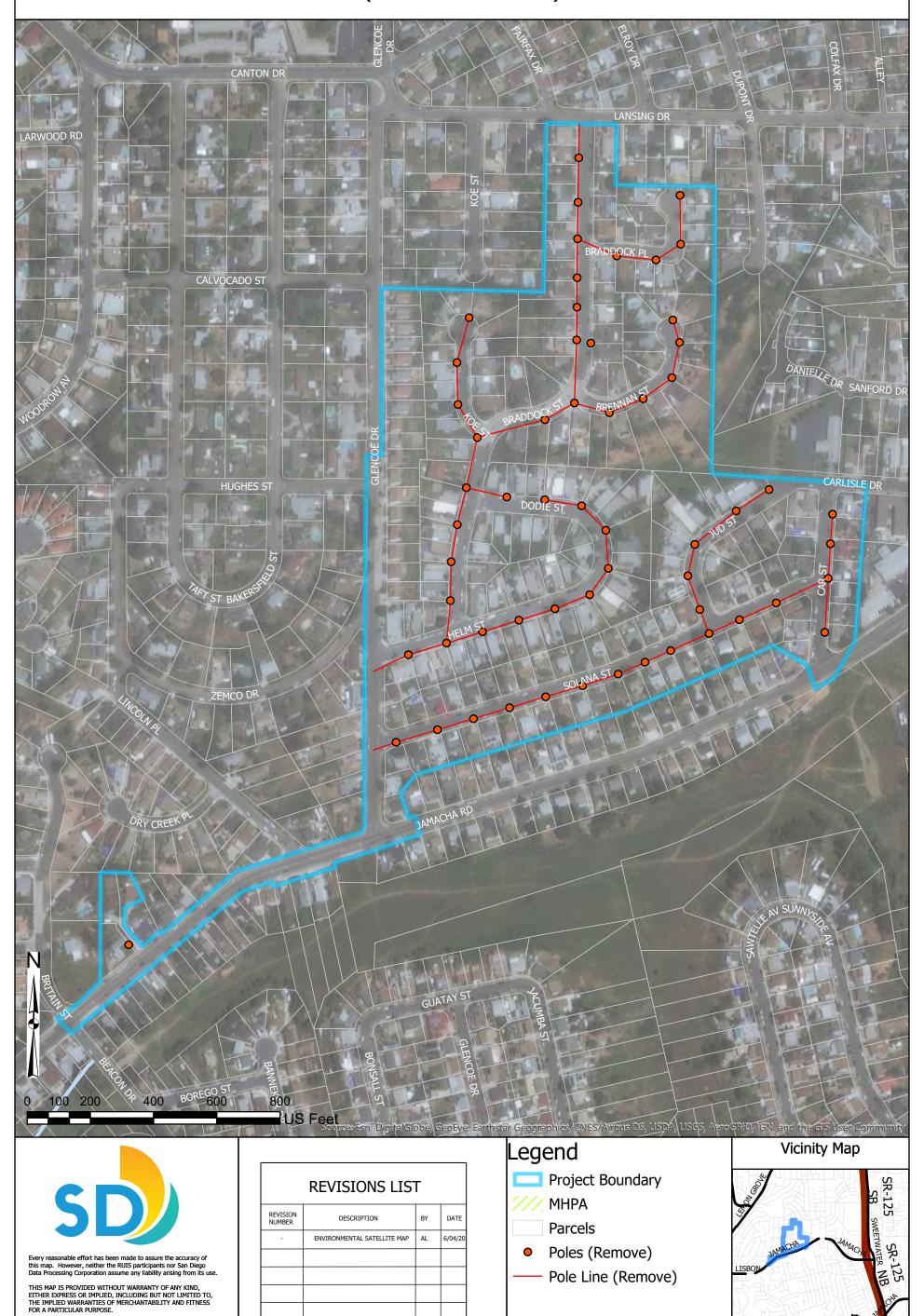


# RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 3CC1- UU906 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (KENSINGTON)



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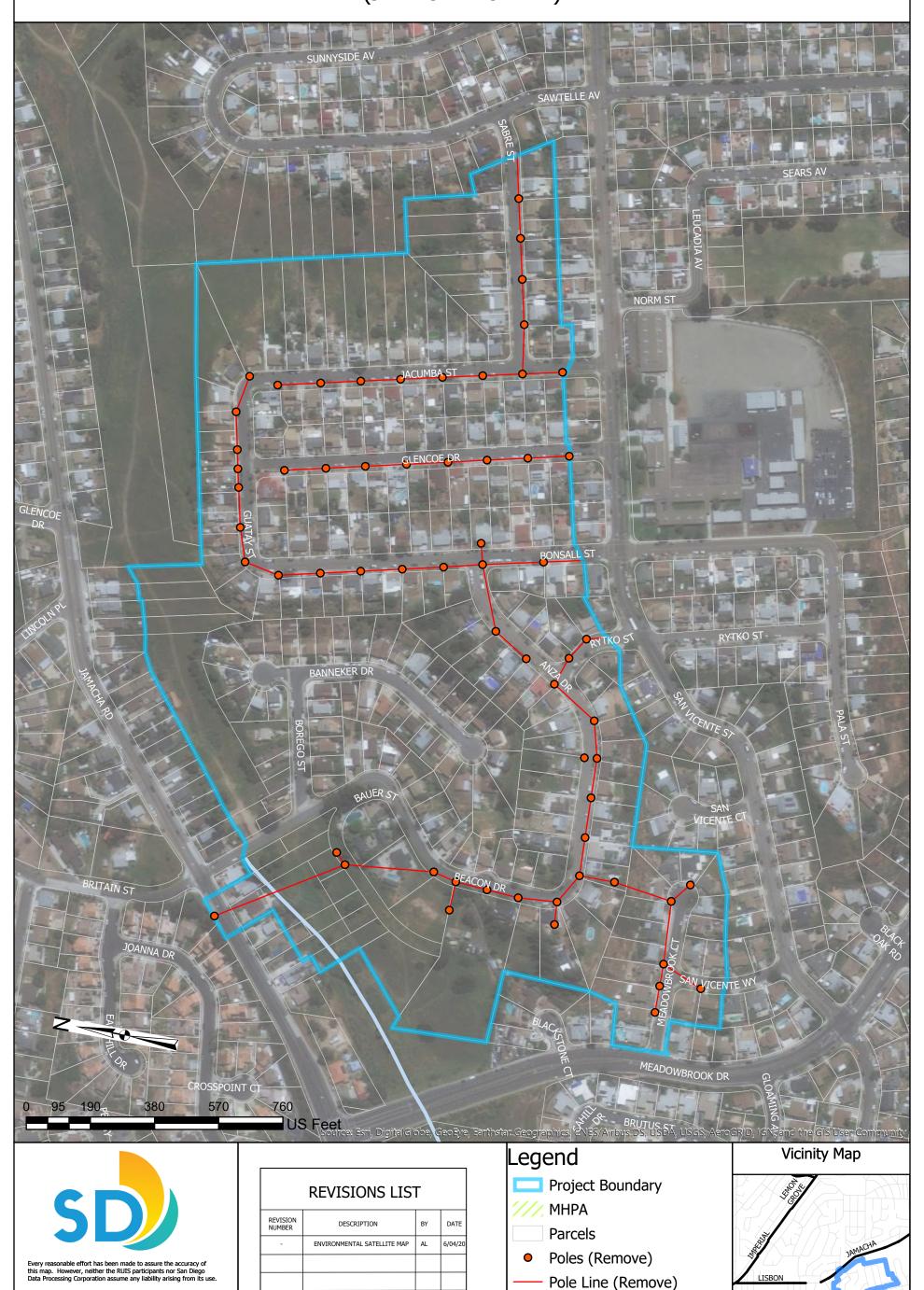
## RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 4X- UU292 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (JAMACHA LOMITA)



PARADISE &

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## RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 4X1- UU293 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (JAMACHA LOMITA)



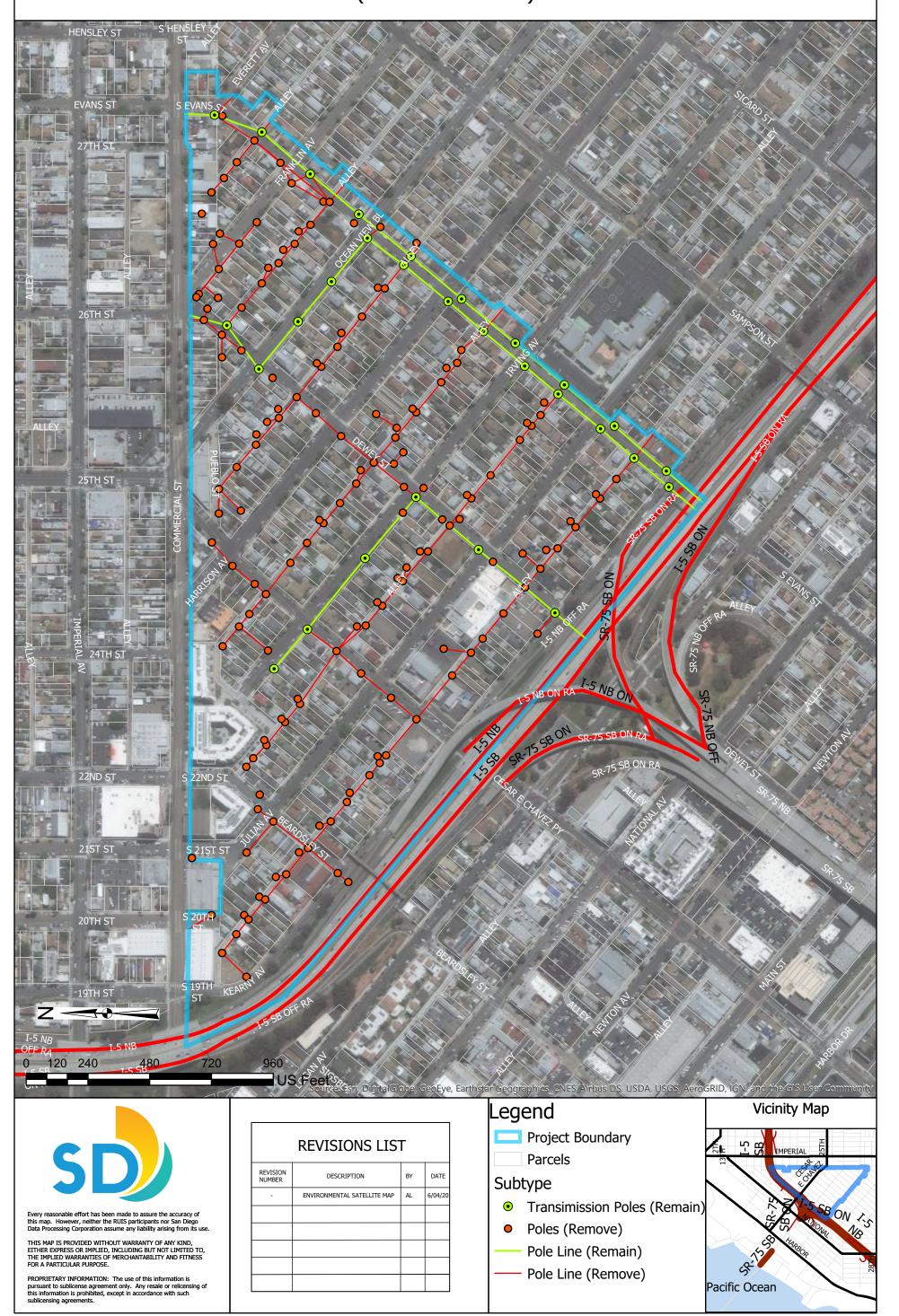
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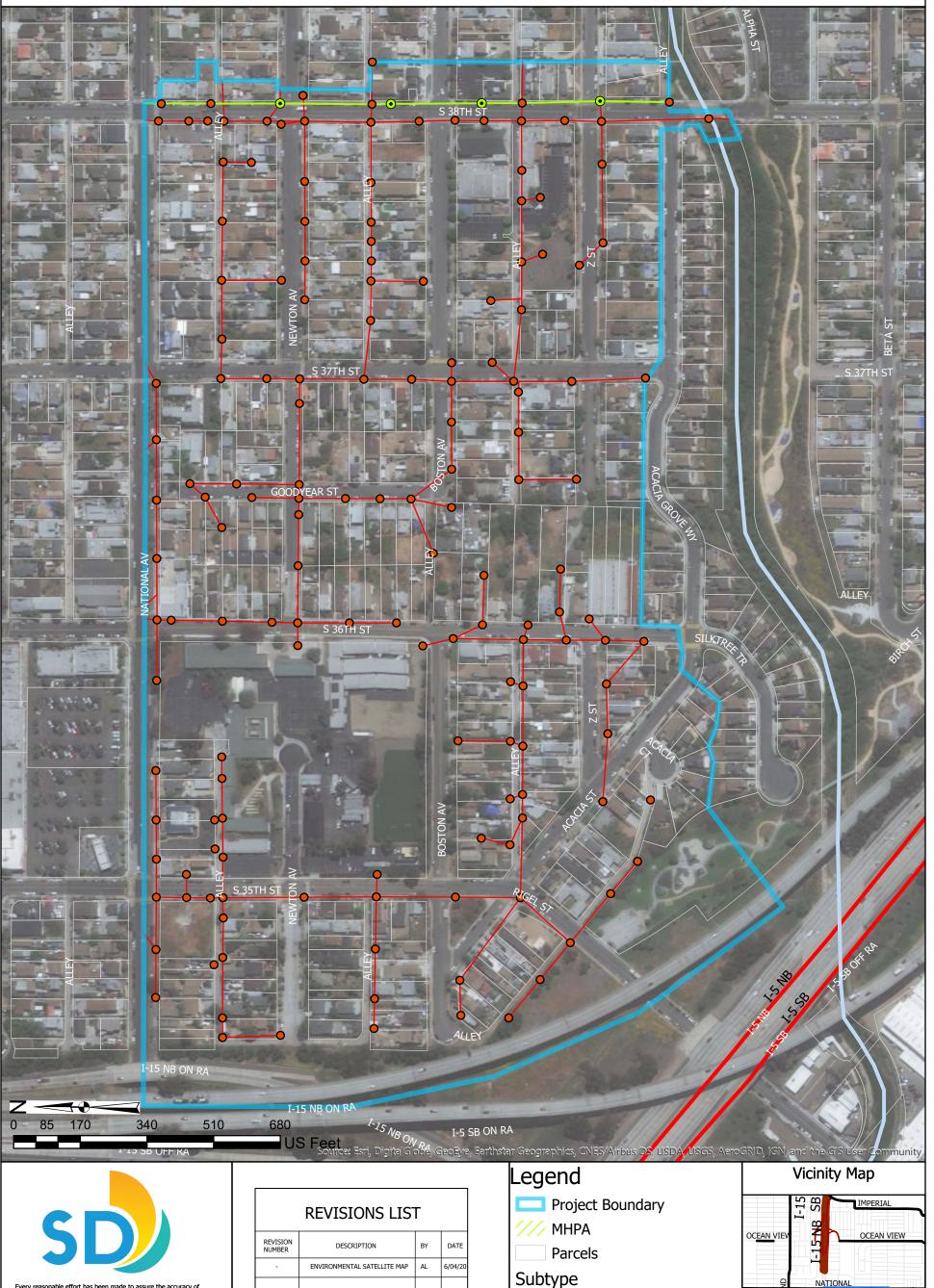
## RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 8H- UU820 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (BARRIO LOGAN)



# RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 8I- UU819 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (LOGAN HEIGHTS)



### RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 8N- UU823 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT (SOUTHCREST)





Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this map. However, neither the RUIS participants nor San Diego Data Processing Corporation assume any liability arising from its use.

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REVISIONS LIST					
REVISION DESCRIPTION BY DATE					
-	ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE MAP	AL	6/04/20		

• Transmission Poles (Remain)

- Poles (Remove)
- Pole Line (Remove)
- Transmission Line (Remain)



#### **INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

- 1. Project Title/Project number: **Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts /PTS 594590**
- 2. Lead agency name and address: City of San Diego, Planning Department, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92123-1801
- 3. Contact person and phone number: Myra Herrmann, Senior Planner, (619) 446-5372
- 4. Project location: The project is located within the public right-of-way, as well as several City and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) easements, in the following areas: UU229 Residential Project Block 1H (La Jolla); UU292 Residential Project Block 4X (Skyline-Paradise Hills); UU293 Residential Project Block 4X 1 (Skyline-Paradise Hills); UU819 Residential Project Block 8I (Southeastern San Diego); UU820 Residential Project Block 8H (Downtown/Barrio Logan); UU823 Residential Project Block 8N (Southeastern San Diego); UU906 Residential Project Block 3CC1 (Mid-City: Kensington-Talmadge).
- 5. Project Applicant/Sponsor's name and address: City of San Diego, Transportation and Storm Water Department, Right of Way Coordination Division / Breanne Busby, 9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100, MS 1900, San Diego, CA 92123, (619) 533-3046.
- 6. General Plan designation: Right-of-Way (surrounding Residential; Commercial Employment, Retail, & Services; Multiple Use; Institutional & Public and Semi-Public Facilities; and Park, Open Space, & Recreation.
- 7. Zoning: Right-of-Way, Public, Institutional, Industrial, Single and Multiple Family Residential, Mixed Use, Commercial, Parks and Open Space, partially located within the Community Planning Implementation and the Coastal Overlay Zones.
- 8. Description of project (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation.): CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL to prioritize and construct the Group 160621 Underground Utility Districts (UUD). The districts would also create an overlay that would restrict utility companies from installing above-ground utility lines, excluding electric transmission lines which are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, in the future. SDG&E will be constructing an underground utility system per the franchise agreement in the public right-of-way. The project proposes to underground the overhead utility lines by excavating approximately 16.2 miles of trench that is approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of the public right-of-way, installing conduit and substructures such as electric transformer boxes and telecommunication pedestals, installing cable through the conduit, backfilling, removing the existing overhead utility lines and poles, and installing new streetlights where applicable. Utility poles may need to be installed or upgraded at the boundary of the district where determined necessary for the transition from the existing aerial system to the new underground system. Streetlights, utility poles (if needed), transformer boxes, and pedestals will be installed in the public right of way or a utility easement. Locations of the new equipment will be determined during utility system design and a community forum will be held to allow residents to provide input on final designs. In most cases, boxes and pedestals can be placed without requiring the removal of an existing tree. Trenching or boring work that could impact existing trees will be done in consultation with the City Arborist.

Individual customer connections will be made by boring laterally underground from the main line in the right of way to the front of the structure to install conduit and cable. If lateral boring is not feasible, open trenches approximately three feet deep and two feet wide will be dug and surfaces restored to pre-existing conditions when work is complete. Some properties may require electric service panel upgrades, and/or installation of additional conduit and junction boxes on the exterior of the building.

After utilities are undergrounded, street trees may be installed in the right of way if conditions allow it and property owners sign an agreement to water the tree until it is established. Curb ramps would also be installed, where necessary, to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, which may result in the loss of a street parking space at some locations. It should also be noted that the project may replace previously conforming curb ramps to meet current City and ADA standards. In addition, sidewalk repairs, preservation of historical stamps, and street resurfacing or replacement of segments of concrete road will be done as needed.

- 9. Surrounding land uses and setting: The surrounding land use is comprised of residential, commercial, multiple use, industrial, parks, open space & recreation, and institutional & public facilities.
- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.): Not Applicable
- 11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? Tribal consultation was conducted in October 2018 with the lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and Jamul Indian Village and resulted in a recommendation for Native American Kumeyaay monitoring during all construction-related trenching activities in the project areas.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

least	The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.						
	Aesthetics		Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Population/Housing		
	Agriculture and Forestry Resources		Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Public Services		
	Air Quality		Hydrology/Water Quality		Recreation		
	Biological Resources	$\boxtimes$	Land Use/Planning		Transportation/Traffic		
	Cultural Resources		Mineral Resources		Tribal Cultural Resources		
	Utilities/Service System	☐ G	eology/Soils		Noise		
$\boxtimes$	Mandatory Findings of Significance						

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation: The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.  $\boxtimes$ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project,

nothing further is required.

	Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
l)	AESTHETICS – Would the project:				
	a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
	The proposed projects would no overhead lines and poles that quality of the area by removing transmission lines which are reg	impede views. T g existing above	The proposed projects ground utility poles a	s would improve and lines, exclud	the visual
	b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				$\boxtimes$
	Please see I.a. The proposed pro	ojects are not lo	cated within a scenic h	ighway.	
	c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
	By removing the existing above would be improved. The under electric transformer boxes and pedestals depend mainly on the streets with commercial and mustreet with single-family homes.	grounding proje telecommunicat e load that the edulti-family prope	cts would require the ion pedestals. The size quipment must accom	placement of about and number of modate. For example 2015	oveground boxes and ample,

In single-family neighborhoods, transformer boxes and pedestals are placed at roughly one per ten houses on average. Some properties may receive one, two, or three boxes depending on conditions. Transformer boxes are placed on concrete pads, roughly 3.5 feet by 3.5 feet by 4 inches tall, with the box being a few inches smaller and roughly 2.5 to 3 feet tall. Pedestal sizes are more variable between the different telecommunication companies, but are usually smaller in scale than transformer boxes. Boxes, pedestals, streetlights, and poles (if necessary) would be placed in the public right-of-way or in a utility easement. A community design forum will be held several months prior to construction to present proposed locations for equipment and allow property owners and residents to provide input on the final locations.

Structures receiving the undergrounded utility service will require conduit to be placed on the outside of the building running from the ground to the electric service panel. Some buildings may need additional conduit and/or a junction box installed depending on various factors including distance to the service panel and configuration of the existing electric service feed, among other site-specific factors. The conduit is generally no larger than a few inches in

Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	diameter. The placement of ext	erior equipment	on designated histori	c structures wou	ıld be
	reviewed by historic resources s	taff when electri	<u>c service conversion p</u>	ermits are issue	<u>d.</u>
	The addition of the above-groun would not change the character Although, some property owner impact to the neighborhood wo Potential visual impacts would be	of the develope s may find the n uld be improved	d areas where they wo ew equipment unattra by removing the over	ould be installed active, the overal	<u>.</u> l visual
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				
	The proposed projects would restreetlights will be removed and	d replaced in like	and kind. Additional	streetlights may	<u>/ be added</u>

with a streetlight.

II) AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. – Would the project:

a)	Converts Prime Farmland,		
	Unique Farmland, or		
	Farmland of Statewide		
	Importance (Farmland), as		
	shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland		
	Mapping and Monitoring		
	Program of the California		
	Resources Agency, to non- agricultural use?		
	agriculturur ase:		

The proposed projects will be constructed within the developed public right-of-way on land not classified as farmland by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). Similarly, land surrounding the proposed projects is not classified as farmland by the FMMP. Therefore, the proposed projects would not convert farmland to non-agricultural uses.

Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				$\boxtimes$
	The proposed projects will be contact and a second for agriculture or part of a			ic right-of-way c	n land not
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 1220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
	The public right-of-way and land land. Therefore, the proposed land.				
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				$\boxtimes$
	The utility project sites are lo surrounding the proposed projects would not convert fores	jects are not d	esignated forest land	•	
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
	No existing agricultural uses are the proposed projects.	located in prox	imity of the project site	es that could be	affected by
1	IR QUALITY – Where available, the management or air pollution cont determinations - Would the projec	rol district may l	•	• •	luality

Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				$\boxtimes$
	Construction of the proposed porthe air basin. However, construct Management Practices (BMPs), substitution dust emissions by 75 percent. We the lack of operational emission	tion emissions w such as watering /ith the impleme	ould be temporary. In g for dust abatement, entation of project BM	addition, constr would reduce co Ps during constr	uction Best onstruction ruction and
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
	Please see III.a.				
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
	As described above, construction other pollutants. However, consimplementation of BMPs would level less than significant. There considerable net increase of an attainment under applicable fed	truction emissic reduce potentia efore, the propo y criteria polluta	ns would be tempora I impacts related from osed projects would r ant for which the over	ry, and it is antic I construction ac Not result in a cu all project region	ipated that tivities to a umulatively
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				
	Construction operations could to could affect sensitive receptors emissions would be temporary, would reduce potential impacts	adjacent to the	e proposed project si pated that implementa	tes. However, co	onstruction ction BMPs

proposed projects would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

	Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				
IV.	BI	Operation of construction equiposed combustion. However, these odo equipment and vehicles. After constructed with the proposed proposed proposed proposed colonics.	rs would only re onstruction is co ojects.	main temporarily in p	roximity to the co	nstruction
	a)	Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				

All trenching would occur within the developed public right-of-way or on private property to connect to the main lines in the right-of-way. There would not be any trenching or boring within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) or other sensitive habitat. The majority of utility pole removal work would also occur within the developed public right-of-way, except for the removal of several poles in two UUDs that occur within SDG&E access easements in the City's MHPA and Tier I or IIIA/B habitat.

Pole removal within the MHPA and other areas not accessible by trucks would be performed manually without heavy equipment. The poles that cannot be accessed from existing roadways would be scaled by workers and cut down in sections and lowered to the ground. The base would be left in place to minimize ground disturbance and the pole pieces would be carried out on foot. No new access roads would be created. Removal of poles within the MHPA would be conducted outside of the avian breeding season. The MHPA Land Use Adjacency Guidelines will also be implemented.

UU229 Residential Project Block 1H has eight poles to be removed that are located in the MHPA. A biological survey of the proposed UUD was conducted on February 25, 2019 (City of San Diego Public Works Department, 2020). Nuttall's scrub oak, a sensitive plant species, was found within the open space park along the designated 3-foot access paths associated with the eight poles subject for removal. No special status animal species were observed. Project activities associated with removing some of some of the eight poles have the potential to temporarily impact Southern Maritime Chaparral (Tier I habitat). However, impacts are considered temporary and not significant because only minor trimming is expected, no impacts to the root ball will occur, there

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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will be no ground disturbing activities within the habitat, and all impacted vegetation is expected to recover within one growing season. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

UU906 Residential Project Block 3CC1 has twelve poles located partially or completely within the MHPA. A biological survey of the proposed UUD was conducted on February 25, 2019 and March 15, 2019 (City of San Diego Public Works Department 2020). The following sensitive species were documented during the field visit as being present within or adjacent to the impact areas: Coast barrel cactus, Nuttall's scrub oak, and Cooper's hawk. Project activities associated with removing some of these twelve poles have the potential to temporarily impact the following sensitive vegetation communities: Scrub Oak Chaparral a Tier I habitat, Chaparral a Tier IIIA habitat, Disturbed Chaparral a Tier IIIA habitat. However, impacts are considered temporary and not significant because only minor trimming is expected, no impacts to the root ball will occur, there will be no ground disturbing activities within the habitat, and all impacted vegetation is expected to recover within one growing season. Therefore, no mitigation is required. In addition, removal of poles within the MHPA would be conducted outside of the avian breeding season.

Because the vegetation communities within and adjacent to both UUDs provide suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species, measures would be implemented to ensure potential impacts to special-status wildlife within 300 feet of construction activities would be less than significant and that work within the MHPA would be conducted outside of the avian breeding season (January 15 to September 15). Potential indirect impacts to the MHPA would be reduced to below a level of significance through compliance with, and implementation of the MHPA Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (LUAG) outlined in the City's (MSCP).

b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			
	The proposed UUDs do not include regarding work within or in proxim	-	•	
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
There are no federal wetlands within or adjacent to any of the work areas, however, there is a					
larga drair		f I I I 220 D: - l +:	al Duata et Dia al. 1		

There are no federal wetlands within or adjacent to any of the work areas, however, there is a large drainage that occurs in the open space area of UU229 Residential Project Block 1H that is a potential non-wetland, ephemeral waters of the US/State and potential ephemeral streambed (City of San Diego Public Works Department, 2020). The drainage does not support a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation, and therefore, does not qualify as a City jurisdictional wetland.

The three poles to be removed are located directly adjacent to the drainage. However, removal of the poles will be conducted by hand, leaving the base in place, and will not disturb soil or impact the drainage. Implementation of the MHPA LUAG would ensure no impacts to wetland as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

 $\bowtie$ 

 $\boxtimes$ 

d)	Interfere substantially with
	the movement of any native
	resident or migratory fish or
	wildlife species or with
	established native resident or
	migratory wildlife corridors,
	or impede the use of native
	wildlife nursery sites?

The proposed projects would not result in adverse impacts on wildlife movement. As described above in IV.a and b., project trenching will be located within the developed public right-of-way and would not remove any habitat. Construction noise levels at the edge of occupied habitat will be kept below 60 dB(A) during the avian breeding season. Pole removal within the MHPA would not substantially interfere with native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors. Removal of existing poles within natural areas will eliminate the need for maintenance activities within MHPA and improve habitat for wildlife.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

The proposed projects would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. As described in IV.a., removal of poles within sensitive habitat and the MHPA would not create a significant impact. Construction work would be conducted in accordance with the MHPA LUAG. Reasonable steps will be taken to protect existing trees while work is in progress. Any tree removal that could be required for undergrounding would be performed in consultation with the City's arborist.

Due to the presence of the MHPA within and adjacent to the UUD boundaries, compliance with the MHPA LUAG (Section 1.4.3) is required in order to ensure that the project would not result in any indirect impacts to the MHPA. Per the MSCP, potential indirect effects from drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, barriers, invasives, and brush management from project construction and operation must not adversely affect the MHPA. Refer to Land Use Section X(c) for further details.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

The City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) establishes guidelines that limit activities that occur within the MHPA. Although utility lines and roads are considered conditionally compatible per Section 1.4.1 of the MCSP, the proposed project would remove the existing utility lines and poles from the MHPA and place them in the developed public right-of-way. This is consistent with Section 1.4.2 of the MSCP which states that utility lines should be designed to avoid or minimize intrusion into the MHPA by routing through developed areas, where possible. To minimize habitat disturbance, poles in the MHPA that are not accessible from existing roads would not be removed using heavy equipment. They would be accessed by crews on foot, cut from the top down to ground level in small sections, and carried out on foot. The project would be required to comply with the MHPA LUAG as described in the Biological Technical Reports during construction-related activities, where applicable, and as such, conflicts with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan would be less than significant.

 $\boxtimes$ 

٧.	<b>CULTURAL</b>	<b>RESOURCES -</b>	Would	the	project

a)	Cause a substantial adverse
	change in the significance of
	an historical resource as
	defined in §15064 57

The purpose and intent of the Historical Resources Regulations of the Land Development Code (Chapter 14, Division 3, and Article 2) is to protect, preserve and, where damaged, restore the historical resources of San Diego. The regulations apply to all proposed development within the City of San Diego when historical resources are present on the premises. CEQA requires that before approving discretionary projects, the Lead Agency must identify and examine the significant adverse environmental effects that may result from that project. A project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource may have a significant effect on the environment (Sections 15064.5(b) and 21084.1). A substantial adverse change is defined as demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration activities, which would impair historical significance (Section 15064.5(b)(1)). Any historical resource listed in, or eligible to be listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, including archaeological resources, is considered to be historically or culturally significant. Because the potential exists for cultural resources (archaeological and tribal) to be encountered anywhere within the project areas, archaeological and Native American monitoring would be required during all trenching activities within the district boundaries. Additionally, Section 142.0670(b)(1) and (2) of the Land Development Code requires that specific street improvements be constructed to preserve historic design elements in specific neighborhoods; including the location, width, elevation, scoring pattern, texture, color and material to the satisfaction of the City Engineer. In addition, concrete

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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sidewalk stamps must be sawcut and replaced in the same or close location as determined by a qualified historic preservation consultant as required in the contract documents.

Implementation of the mitigation measures and contract requirements would reduce potential impacts to cultural resources to below a level of significance and would not result in a substantial adverse change to the significance of an historical resource.

Cultural resources archival research and a subsequent records search was conducted for the proposed UUDs which did not result in the identification of recorded sites within the project boundaries; however, resources were identified within ¼ mile of each project area, and as noted above, there is a potential for resources to be encountered anywhere in the project areas; especially in proximity to the coast or bays. As such, archaeological and Native American monitoring would be required during all construction-related activities required to implement the project.

b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
	Please see V.a. Cultural resources conducted for the proposed UUDs within the project boundaries; how area, and as noted above in V.a, the project areas; especially in pro American monitoring would be recimplement the project.	s which did no vever, resourd nere is a poter eximity to the	nt result in the identific tes were identified wit ntial for resources to b coast or bays. As such	ation of recorde hin ¼ mile of ea e encountered a , archaeological	ed sites ch project anywhere in and Native
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				
	Project plans do not require trench thresholds for paleontological reso unique geologic resources.		_	_	_
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				

<u>Please refer to section V.a. and V.b. Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be</u> required during soil disturbing activities. If human remains are encountered, all provisions of the

Potentially Less Than
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Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), the California Public Resources Code, and the California Health and Safety Code will be implemented to ensure the appropriate treatment of any burials or associated grave goods.

VI.	GE	OLO	OGY AND SOILS – Would the	project:			
	a)	to   adv	oose people or structures potential substantial verse effects, including the cof loss, injury, or death olving:				
		i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.  Portions of UU229 Reside located within Alquist-Prio Project Block 1H. However and would utilize proper elepeople or structures to poor death.	lo Fault Zones and r, the projects do n ngineering design a	several other faults of include any struce and construction pra	traverse UU2299 tures for human ctices and would	Residential occupancy not Expose
		ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?				
			All of Southern California regional earthquakes. Any a moderate to large earthquaked would produce strong seperiod is low.	of the projects cou quake were to occu	ld be subject to stro r. However, the likel	ng seismic groun lihood of an earth	d shaking if Iquake that
			The proposed projects wo minimize the potential groincrease existing risks ass completed, underground effects of shaking than	ound shaking impa ociated with stron electric distribution	cts to structures and g seismic ground sh l lines would be ger	d equipment and naking. After con nerally less subje	would not struction is ct to direct

Iss	ue		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		maintenance activities would		•	orkers on overh	nead lines.
		Potential impacts would be le	<u>ss than significa</u>	<u>nt.</u>		
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
		UU820 Residential Block 8H is part of UU823 Residential Block 8H is However, none of the project all be constructed primarily construction practices incorp ground failure or liquefaction	ock 8N is locate s include any st underground. orated, the po	ed on soil with a low ructures for human of With the appropriat tential impacts asso	potential for lic occupancy, and t e engineering c	quefaction. :hey would lesign and
	iv)	Landslides?				
		UU292 Residential Block 4X, contain steep slopes and land will be constructed on relative connections on private development than five feet or wider than 2 on private property would be Disturbed areas will be return not increase existing risks to would utilize proper engineer the potential for impacts would	that is classified ely flat develop ped property. T 5 feet and will b bored, if possibled to pre-consti people or stru	d as slide prone. Howed land within the right-core shored where neces, or trenched three fruction conditions. The core standard construction standard constructions.	ever, the propose ght-of-way and vor- of-way would not essary. Lateral co eet deep and two ne proposed proj es. The propose	ed projects with lateral be deeper connections ofeet wide. ects would ed projects
b)		sult in substantial soil sion or the loss of topsoil?				
	of-v dist BM and	nstruction of the proposed proway and trenching or boring turbed areas would be replaced by the City of San Diego Standerefore, the projects would not	on private proped in kind. Dur required pursu ard Specification	perty. After the cond ing construction-rela ant to the City's Storm is for Public Works	uit and cable is ited activities, st m Water Standar Construction ("W	placed, all orm water ds Manual
c)	or s wo res pot site spr	located on a geologic unit soil that is unstable, or that uld become unstable as a ult of the project, and tentially result in on- or offelandslide, lateral eading, subsidence, uefaction or collapse?				
		820 Residential Block 8H and a potential for liquefaction, and	•			

**Less Than** 

Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
	UU229 Residential Block 1H contain land that is classified as slide prone. However, the proposed projects will be constructed on relatively flat developed land within the right-of-way and with lateral connections on private developed property. Trenches in the right-of-way would not be deeper than five feet or wider than 2.5 feet and will be shored where necessary. Lateral connections on private property would be bored, if possible, or trenched three feet deep and two feet wide. Disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions. The proposed projects would utilize appropriate engineering design and standard construction practices to ensure they would not contribute to unstable soil conditions. Potential impacts would be less than significant.					
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?					
	The proposed projects do not constructed on land within the demeets appropriate engineering seless than significant.	eveloped ROW.	Trenches would be ba	ckfilled with soi	l or fill that	
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				$\boxtimes$	
′II. G	The proposed projects would Therefore, no impact would occu	<u>ır.</u>		<u>tive wastewate</u>	r systems.	
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			$\boxtimes$		
	The City of San Diego, as of July (Checklist) to provide a streamlin are subject to discretionary revie	ned review proce	ess for proposed new	development pr	ojects that	

The City of San Diego, as of July 2016, is utilizing the Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist (Checklist) to provide a streamlined review process for proposed new development projects that are subject to discretionary review and trigger environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The first step in determining CAP consistency is to assess a project's consistency with the land use assumptions used in the CAP. Specifically, in Step 1, the proposed projects must be determined to be consistent with the existing General Plan and Community Plan land use and zoning designations. Since public utilities such as underground utilities are consistent with all land use and zoning designations, the projects are consistent with both the General Plan and Community

	Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		Plan land use and zoning design to evaluate a project's consistent Step 2 only applies to developm of occupancy. Since utility project the review is complete and the pwould therefore not cause any required. Impacts would be less	cy with the applice ent projects that ts within the public project is determing significant incr	able strategies and a involve permits that lic ROW do not requir ned to be consistent	ctions of the CAP would require a e a certificate of c with the CAP. Th	. However, certificate occupancy, ne projects
	b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				
		Please also see VII.a. The proposor regulations related to greenh	ouse gases. Ther	e is no impact.	y applicable plar	ıs, policies,
,	VIII. H	AZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATE	RIALS – Would th	e project:		
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
		Construction of the proposed lubricants, solvents, etc.), which however, the projects would no addition, construction standard local, state, and federal standard to the public or environment.	h would require t routinely trans s shall be impler	e proper storage, ha port, use or dispose mented for any subsi	andling, use and of hazardous ma urface discoverie	d disposal; aterials. In es, to meet
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
		UU819 Residential Project Blo	ck 8I and UU82	20 Residential Projec	ct Block 8H hav	<u>/e_Leaking</u>

Less Than

UU819 Residential Project Block 8I and UU820 Residential Project Block 8H have Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cleanup sites and permitted USTs, and other cleanup sites located within 1,000 feet of the project alignments. As such, the projects would incorporate project design features, as well as incorporate specifications for construction to meet the local, state, and federal requirements to address such hazardous materials should they be discovered during construction. In the event that construction activities encounter underground contamination, the

Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	contractor would be required Substances or Petroleum Production ("Whitebook") which proper handling and disposal of state, and federal regulations. Cethe public and the environment;	ts," of the <i>City of</i> is included in a any contamina ompliance with	f San Diego Standard Sp Il construction docum ated soils in accordand these requirements v	necifications for P ents and would ce with all appli would minimize	ublic Works ensure the cable local, the risk to
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
	There are schools located within see VIII.a and VIII.b. Impacts wou			undaries. Howe	ver, please
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
	Please see VIII.a and VIII.b. In construction-related activities the or Releasing Hazardous Substant Specifications for Public Works Condocuments and would ensure that accordance with all applicable requirements would minimize the would remain less than significant	e contractor wil nces or Petroler onstruction ("WI he proper hand local, state, ar he risk to the p	ll be required to imple um Products," of the nitebook") which is in dling and disposal of nd federal regulation	ement §803, "En City of San Dieg Icluded in all co any contaminat s. Compliance	countering o Standara onstruction ted soils in with these
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				

**Less Than** 

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed projects will replace overhead utility lines and poles with new underground utility systems. New street lights will be installed and some new utility poles may need to be installed or upgraded at the boundaries of the districts where determined necessary for the transition from the existing aerial system to the new underground system. New street lights or utility poles would not be taller than existing overhead infrastructure and would not introduce new features that would be a flight hazard. There would be no impact.

	would be a flight flazard. There we	odid be no ninp	act.		
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
	None of the proposed UUD project no impact would occur. Please als		within the vicinity of a	ı private airstrip, a	nd as such
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
	Construction of the proposed p project boundaries. However, an construction which would allow e significant.	approved Tra	ffic Control Plan wo	<u>uld be implemen</u>	ted during
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				
	The proposed projects would underground, thereby reducing to projects would not introduce any utilities will be located underground.	the risks assoc new features	iated with this categ	ory. As such, the	proposed
Нλ	DROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -	Would the pro	ject:		
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				$\boxtimes$

IX.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Potential impacts to existing water quality standards associated with the proposed projects would include minimal short-term construction-related erosion/sedimentation and no long-term operational storm water discharge. Implementation of BMP's outlined in the Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) and conformance with the City's Storm Water Runoff and Drainage Regulations (Storm Water Regulations) would prevent or effectively minimize short-term water quality impacts. Therefore, the proposed projects would not violate any existing water quality standards or discharge requirements

	standards of discharge requirement	<u></u>			
၁)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
	The proposed projects do not proposed not introduce significant new impervalence of the proposed projects interfere substantially with groundward proposed projects.	vious surfaces would not s	s that could interfere v substantially deplete	with groundwate	r recharge
<b>E</b> )	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
	The proposed projects will be located private properties and would not change of the utility lines, the streets would where poles are removed. Therefore drainage patterns.	nange drainag I be returned	ge patterns. Upon co to their preexisting o	mpletion of the conditions, as wi	<u>installatior</u> ll the areas
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including				$\boxtimes$

Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding onor off-site?				
	Please see IX.c. Since the propopatterns and would not introduce would not be increased.		-		-
e)	Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
	Please see IX.c and d. Implement City's Storm Water Regulations a minimize short-term construction runoff water that would exceed	and Storm Wate on impacts. The	er Standards Manual werefore, the utility pro	vould prevent or jects would not	effectively
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				
	Implementation of BMPs outling compliance with the City's Storm prevent or effectively minimize in	<u>n Water Regula</u>	tions and Storm Wate	<u>r Standards Ma</u>	•
g)	Place housing within a 100- year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
	The proposed projects do not pr	opose construc	tion of any new housin	ng.	
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area, structures that would impede or redirect				

flood flows?

	Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		The proposed projects do not proposed projects do not proposed projects do not provide the proposed projects do not provide proposed projects do not project projects do not project			•	lirect flood
	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				$\boxtimes$
		The proposed projects would no with flooding beyond those of the			increase the risk	associated
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				
		The proposed projects would no with seiche, tsunami, or mudflo	-			<u>associated</u>
X.	L	AND USE AND PLANNING – Woul	d the project:			
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				
		Implementation of the propinfrastructure below ground an established community.		· ·	_	
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
		The proposed project would reunderground within the develop	_		•	

Taga Mhan

The proposed project would remove existing utility poles and overhead lines and place them underground within the developed public ROW. This action would be consistent with all applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project and would not conflict with any applicable land use plans. Locations within the Coastal Zone are exempt from the requirement to obtain a Coastal Development Permit pursuant to the SDMC Section 126.0704 "Exemptions from a Coastal Development Permit: subsection (e) Public utility installation of new or increased service to development approved or exempted in the Municipal Code, and public

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
utility repair or mainter	nance as exempted under	the Coastal Commissi	on's Interpretive	Guidelines

utility repair or maintenance as exempted under the Coastal Commission's Interpretive Guidelines on Exclusions from Permit Requirements filed with the City Clerk as Document No. OO-17067-2.

Some utility poles that would be removed are located within and adjacent to the City's MHPA. As described in IV f – Biological Resources, the proposed project is consistent with the City's MSCP Subarea Plan which establishes guidelines that limit activities that occur within the MHPA. Compliance with the MHPA LUAG as outlined in the MSCP Subarea Plan would ensure that potential land use impacts from construction and pole removal would be less than significant.

c)	Conflict with any applicable			
	habitat conservation plan or		$\square$	
	natural community			
	conservation plan?			

The proposed UUD projects would not conflict with the adopted MSCP Subarea Plan or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. However, as previously identified in Section IV.a., Biological Resources, portions of UU229 and UU906 are located within the boundaries of the City's MHPA. These lands have been included within the City's MSCP Subarea Plan for habitat conservation because they have been determined to provide the necessary habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity to sustain the unique biodiversity of the San Diego region. Qualified biologists conducted field surveys to assess the vegetation communities on site and determined that potential impacts would be minimized through compliance and implementation of the MHPA LUAG outlined in the MSCP Subarea Plan (Public Works Department, 2020). Refer to Section IV.a., Biological Resources discussion for further details.

Despite having no direct impacts to biological resources, because the project is located within proximity to sensitive upland habitat in the MHPA, indirect noise impacts from construction-related activities must be avoided during the breeding season of the coastal California gnatcatcher (March 1 through August 15) and raptors (January 15 to September 15). The coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally listed threatened species, and an MSCP covered species can typically be found within the coastal sage scrub habitat community. Indirect impacts to the MHPA would be avoided through implementation of the MHPA LUAG as outlined in the City's MSCP Subarea Plan (Section 1.4.3). Implementation of and compliance with the MHPA LUAG would ensure that potential indirect impacts are reduced to below a level of significance.

## XI. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project?

a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known		
	mineral resource that would		
	be of value to the region and		
	the residents of the state?		

Lands within the proposed UUDs are not being used for the recovery of mineral resources, nor are they designated for the recovery of mineral resources on the City of San Diego General Plan Land Use Map. Therefore, the proposed projects would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

Is	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				
	Please see XI.a.				
XII.	NOISE – Would the project result in	n:			
a)	Exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
	The proposed projects would on temporary and transitory in nat excess of any noise regulations.				
b)	Exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?				$\boxtimes$
	<u>Please see XII.a.</u>				
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
	Please see XII.a.				
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing without the project?				
	Construction of the proposed proposed proposed proposed in the project vicinities. He	-	•		

levels in the project vicinities. However, based upon the transitory nature of the utility projects and surrounding noise levels in the respective areas resulting from traffic along the streets, the

	Iss		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		increase in ambient noise would will not exceed 60 dB(A) in accor		•	on noise in occu	oied MHPA
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport would the project expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels?				
		The proposed projects do not incand are not within two miles of construction and utilize hearing Occupational Safety and Health of from excessive airport noise.	f an airport. W g protection w	orkers would only be hen/if necessary in a	e onsite tempora accordance with	nrily during California
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
		The proposed project areas are i	not within the v	icinity of a private airs	trip.	
XIII.	Ρ	OPULATION AND HOUSING – Wou	uld the project:			
	a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
		The proposed projects would require underground. The utility project system in order to keep up with	<u>cts are intende</u>	d to improve the cu	rrently outdated	l overhead

businesses, roadways, or infrastructure that could induce growth.

b)	Displace substantial numbers		
	of existing housing,		$\boxtimes$
	necessitating the		

	Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		construction of replacemer housing elsewhere?	nt	•		
		The proposed projects wou otherwise affect existing replacement housing.	-			•
	c)	Displace substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				$\boxtimes$
		The proposed projects w displacement of people, wh				
XIV.	ı	PUBLIC SERVICES				
	a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provisions of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service rations, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	ed d d			
		i) Fire Protection				
		Since the proposed utili projects would not trigg protection facilities.				-
		ii) Police Protection				$\boxtimes$
		The proposed project undergrounding of utilifications.			•	
		iii) Schools				

	Iss	ue		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
			The proposed projects would the proposed projects would could increase demand for se	not include cons	struction of future hou	-	-
		v)	Parks				$\boxtimes$
			The proposed projects would would not create demand for				ed projects
		vi)	Other public facilities				
			The proposed projects woul facilities.	d not increase	the demand for elect	ricity, gas, or ot	:her public
X۱	/. R	ECR	EATION -				
	a)	the neig par faci phy faci	uld the project increase use of existing ghborhood and regional ks or other recreational ilities such that substantial ysical deterioration of the ility would occur or be elerated?				
		<u>ind</u>	e proposed projects would not uce future growth that would pact.		•	•	
	b)	rec req exp faci	es the project include reational facilities or uire the construction or bansion of recreational lilities, which might have adverse physical effect on environment?				
			e proposed projects do not estruction or expansion of rec			tional facilities	or require
X۱	/I. TF	RAN:	SPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would	d the project?			
	a)	pla esta	nflict with an applicable n, ordinance or policy ablishing measures of ectiveness for the				

Less Than Significant with

Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and nonmotorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?		- -		
	Construction of the proposed project boundaries in the areas of the implemented during construction to existing traffic capacity.	of construction. In the construction of the construction is the construction of the co	However, an approved traffic circulation w	d Traffic Control ould not be si	<u>Plan would</u> ubstantially
b)	Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
	Construction of the proposed project boundaries. However, a construction so that traffic would	<u>n approved Tra</u>	<u>ffic Control Plan wou</u>	<u>ld be implemer</u>	
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				
	The proposed projects do not incor new features that would exce air traffic patterns or introduce r	<u>ed height requir</u>	ements. Therefore, th	e projects woul	
d)	Substantially increase				

Iss	ue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?		_		
	The proposed projects will be de- existing levels of safety.	signed to meet	City design standards	and, therefore, v	vould meet
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				
	Construction of the proposed project boundary. However, an construction so that there would	approved Traf	fic Control Plan wou		
f)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				
	The proposed projects are consi and would not result in any co transit, bicycle or pedestrian faci	nflicts regardir			
XVII. TF	RIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resource, defined in Public Resource, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or objective to a Californ Native American tribe, and that	ources site, oe n he ect ia			
	<ul> <li>i) Listed or eligible for listing in California Register of Histori Resources, or in a local regis of historical resources as de in Public Resources Code se</li> </ul>	cal ster E fined			

5020.1(k), or

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Although the potential exists for archaeological resources to be encountered during construction-related activities during project implementation, no tribal cultural resources have been identified within the underground utility district boundaries requiring evaluation in accordance with CEQA the Public Resources Code that meet the criteria for listing on the local, state or federal registers as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k). As such, the impact is less than significant.

ii)	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of	$\boxtimes$	
	• •		
	Public Resource Code Section 5024.1,		
	the lead agency shall consider the		
	significance of the resource to a		
	California Native American tribe.		

As stated above under Cultural Resources Section V.a) and V.b), the project has a potential to impact archaeological resources, which could also meet the definition of a tribal cultural resources in accordance with CEQA. As such, Tribal Consultation in accordance with AB 52 was initiated with the lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and the Jamul Indian Village to determine if the project area contains Tribal Cultural Resources, or areas of human remains which would require further evaluation or special considerations during the environmental review process. Confidential site information was provided to tribal members during the consultation process which included additional context relative to archaeological resources in the surrounding area. Tribal members made note of this information, acknowledging the cultural importance of areas where local creeks or rivers once existed, or are still extant in close proximity to San Diego Bay and other local creeks/streams or natural water sources, and a recommendation was made for Native American-Kumeyaay monitoring during all trenching activities to assure that potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources are reduced to below a level of significance with implementation of the archaeological monitoring program outlined in Section V of the MND.

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

a)	Exceed wastewater		
	treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?		

The proposed projects would place existing overhead utility lines underground and would not exceed the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Iss	sue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
	Please see XVII a. The construction	on of new water	or wastewater facilitie	es would not be	required.
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				$\boxtimes$
	The proposed projects would not in substantial quantities of run Therefore, the proposed projects facilities or expansion of existing	off which would s would not requ	<u>d require new or exp</u>	<u>anded treatmer</u>	t facilities.
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				$\boxtimes$
	The proposed projects would no would not impact existing water		e of any permanent w	ater source and,	therefore,
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provided which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
	The proposed projects would rexisting wastewater treatment p		astewater and, theref	ore, would not	impact an

]	Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project solid waste disposal needs?				
	Construction of the propose activities. This waste would regulations pertaining to so project area. Materials able to Operation of the proposed not affect the permitted capa	be disposed of in blid waste includin o be recycled shall b projects would ger	conformance with all g permitting capacity be done to local standa perate minimal solid w	applicable loca of the landfill s ords regulating so aste and, there	I and state serving the uch activity.
,	g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulation related to solid waste?				
	The proposed projects would statutes and regulations. An be recycled or disposed of in	<u>y solid waste gene</u>	rated during construct	ion related activ	<u>vities would</u>
XVIV.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGI	NIFICANCE –			
	a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduc the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	e			
	As noted above under the d				· ·

As noted above under the discussions for Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources, the project boundaries are not located within areas where archaeological sites have been recorded; however, archaeological and tribal cultural resources can be encountered anywhere in the City of San Diego, specifically when in proximity to areas where local creeks and rivers (such as Chollas Creek) extend into San Diego Bay or are located near the Pacific Ocean. As such, Tribal Consultation was conducted in accordance with AB 52 which concluded that the trenching

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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activities associated with the project have the potential to impact unknown buried archaeological and tribal cultural resources which requires implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in Section V of the MND. Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to below a level of significance. Implementation of and compliance with the City's MSCP MHPA LUAL would ensure that no indirect impacts to biological resources within the MHPA would result from pole removal in proximity to MSCP covered species.

	result from pole removal in prox	diffilly to MISCP CO	<u>vereu species.</u>		
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable futures projects)?				
	When viewed in connection with within the UUDs has the potent could incrementally contribute t implementation of the MMRP id be reduced to below a level of si	tial to impact arc to a cumulative lo lentified in Section	chaeological and trik	oal cultural reso e resources. Ho	urces which wever, with
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				$\boxtimes$
	As proposed, the utility undergradverse effects on human being		s do not have the po	otential to cause	substantia

## INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

## **REFERENCES**

/	AESTHETICS / NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
(	City of San Diego General Plan.
(	Community Plan.
L	ocal Coastal Plan.
/	AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES & FOREST RESOURCES
(	City of San Diego General Plan.
Į	J.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey - San Diego Area, California, Part I and II, 1973.
	California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997)
	Site Specific Report:
/	Air Quality
(	California Clean Air Act Guidelines (Indirect Source Control Programs) 1990.
F	Regional Air Quality Strategies (RAQS) - APCD.
2	Site Specific Report:
ı	BIOLOGY
(	City of San Diego, Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Subarea Plan, 1997
(	City of San Diego, MSCP, "Vegetation Communities with Sensitive Species and Vernal Pools"
ľ	Ларs, 1996.
(	City of San Diego, MSCP, "Multi-Habitat Planning Area" Maps, 1997.
(	Community Plan - Resource Element.
(	California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database, "State and
	ederally-listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California," January 2001.
	California Department of Fish & Game, California Natural Diversity Database, "State and
	Federally-listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California," January 2001.
	City of San Diego Land Development Code Biology Guidelines.
	Site Specific Reports: "Biological Technical Report for UU229 Block 1H Underground Utility
	District Project", City of San Diego, California, July 2020. "Biological Technical Report for
	JU906 Block 3CC1 Underground Utility District Project", City of San Diego, California, July
_	2020.
(	CULTURAL RESOURCES (INCLUDES HISTORICAL RESOURCES)
	City of San Diego Historical Resources Guidelines.
	City of San Diego Archaeology Library.
	Historical Resources Board List.
(	Community Historical Survey:

<u>X</u>	Site Specific Report: Cultural Resources Archival Research prepared by Dudek, January 2018; Subsequent Record Search and Literature review conducted by qualified City archaeological staff (April/May 2018, October 2018 and March 2020); Tribal Consultation (October 2018)
VI.	GEOLOGY/SOILS
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego Seismic Safety Study, 2008.
<u>X</u>	U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey - San Diego Area, California, Part I and II, December 1973 and Part III, 1975 via
	http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm.
<u>X</u>	State of California Department of Conservation, Fault Activity Map of California (2010). Site Specific Reports:
VII.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist, July 2016.
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego General Plan.
VIII.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
<u>X</u>	San Diego County Hazardous Materials Environmental Assessment Listing.
	San Diego County Hazardous Materials Management Division.
	FAA Determination.
	State Assessment and Mitigation, Unauthorized Release Listing, Public Use Authorized.
	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
	Site Specific Report:
IX.	HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY
<u>X</u>	Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).
	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program - Flood Boundary and Floodway Map.
	Clean Water Act Section 303(b) list, <a href="http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists.html">http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists.html</a> ).
	Site Specific Report:
X.	LAND USE AND PLANNING
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego General Plan.
<u>X</u>	Community Plan.
<u>X</u>	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego Zoning Maps
	FAA Determination

XI.

MINERAL RESOURCES

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	California Department of Conservation - Division of Mines and Geology, Mineral Land Classification.
	Division of Mines and Geology, Special Report 153 - Significant Resources Maps.
X	California Geological Survey - SMARA Mineral Land Classification Maps.
	Site Specific Report:
XII.	Noise
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego General Plan.
<u>X</u>	Community Plan
	San Diego International Airport Master Plan CNEL Maps.
	MCAS Miramar ACLUP
	Brown Field Airport Master Plan CNEL Maps.
	Montgomery Field CNEL Maps.
	San Diego Association of Governments - San Diego Regional Average Weekday Traffic Volumes.
	San Diego Metropolitan Area Average Weekday Traffic Volume Maps, SANDAG.
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Site Specific Report:
XIII.	Paleontological Resources
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego Paleontological Guidelines.
	Deméré, Thomas A., and Stephen L. Walsh, "Paleontological Resources City of San Diego,"
	<u>Department of Paleontology</u> San Diego Natural History Museum, 1996.
<u>X</u>	Kennedy, Michael P., and Gary L. Peterson, "Geology of the San Diego Metropolitan Area,
	California. Del Mar, La Jolla, Point Loma, La Mesa, Poway, and SW 1/4 Escondido 7 1/2
	Minute Quadrangles," <u>California Division of Mines and Geology Bulletin</u> 200, Sacramento,
	1975.
	Kennedy, Michael P., and Siang S. Tan, "Geology of National City, Imperial Beach and Otay
	Mesa Quadrangles, Southern San Diego Metropolitan Area, California," Map Sheet 29, 1977 Site Specific Report:
	site specific report.
XIV.	Population / Housing
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Community Plan.
	Series 11 Population Forecasts, SANDAG.
	Other:
XV.	Public Services
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Community Plan.

XVI.	RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Community Plan.
	Department of Park and Recreation
	City of San Diego - San Diego Regional Bicycling Map
	Additional Resources:
XVII.	Transportation / Circulation
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego General Plan.
<u>X</u>	Community Plan.
	San Diego Metropolitan Area Average Weekday Traffic Volume Maps, SANDAG.
	San Diego Region Weekday Traffic Volumes, SANDAG.
	Site Specific Report:
XVIII.	Tribal Cultural Resources
X	City of San Diego Historical Resources Guidelines.
<u>X</u>	City of San Diego Archaeology Library.
	Historical Resources Board List
<u>X</u>	Site Specific Report: Cultural Resources Archival Research prepared by Dudek, January 2018; Subsequent Record Search and Literature review conducted by qualified City archaeological staff (April/May 2018, October 2018 and March 2020); Tribal Consultation (October 2018)
XVIX.	UTILITIES
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Community Plan.
	Site Specific Report:
XX.	WATER CONSERVATION
	City of San Diego General Plan.
	Community Plan.
	Sunset Magazine, New Western Garden Book. Rev. ed. Menlo Park, CA: Sunset Magazine.
	Site Specific Report:

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