

FINAL

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project No. 463483
SCH# N/A

SUBJECT: **FY16 ALLOCATION UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY DISTRICTS: CITY COUNCIL**

APPROVAL to prioritize and construct the FY16 Allocation 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. The project proposes to underground the overhead utility lines by excavating approximately 18 miles of trench that is approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of each public right-of-way, installing conduit and substructures such as above ground transformers on concrete pads, installing cable through the conduits, providing individual customer connections, backfilling, removing the existing overhead utility lines and poles, and installing new streetlights where applicable. Curb ramps will be installed where missing to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, which may result in the loss of a street parking space at some locations. If applicable, street trees will be installed, and streets will be resurfaced, or segments of concrete road replaced. 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 will be determined during final design.

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: **UU602 Sampson Street** from Main Street to Clay Avenue (Southeastern San Diego/Barrio Logan); **UU611 Redwood Street** from Pershing Drive to Boundary Street (Balboa Park/North Park); **UU616 Hilltop Drive Phase II** from 44th Street to Euclid Avenue (Encanto Neighborhoods); **UU628 Fairmount Avenue** from Mission Gorge Road to Sheridan Lane (Navajo); **UU668 Residential Block 8R1** (Otay Mesa-Nestor); **UU789 Residential Block 4Y1** (Skyline-Paradise Hills); **UU875 Residential Block 6H1** (Clairemont Mesa); **UU908 Residential Block 3DD** (Normal Heights); and **UU957 Residential Block 70** (College Area).

Applicant: City of San Diego, Transportation Department, Right of Way Management 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): **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:

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

<u>Issue Area</u>	<u>Document submittal</u>	<u>Associated Inspection/Approvals/Note</u>
General	Consultant Qualification Letters	Prior to Preconstruction Meeting
General	Consultant Const. Monitoring	Prior to or at Preconstruction Mtg
Archaeology	Archaeology 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

1. 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 in-house, 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 1/4 mile radius.

B. PI Shall Attend Precon Meetings

1. 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
 - 1. 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 off-site 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 notified by the Commission, 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, 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.
 - 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 CSV 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.
 - c. 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 Revised Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

City of San Diego:

Mayor's Office

Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, Council District 9

Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Council District 2

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, Council District 3

Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Council District 4

Councilmember Raul Campillo, Council District 7

Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Council District 8

City Attorney's Office

Transportation & Storm Water Department (Applicant Department)

Planning Department

Development Services Department

Public Utilities Department

Public Works Department

Park and Recreation Department

Real Estate Assets Department

Library Dept.-Gov. Documents (81)

Benjamin Branch Library (81D)

Carmel Valley Branch Library (81F)

Clairemont Branch Library (81H)

Kensington-Normal Heights Branch Library (81K)
Logan Heights Branch Library (81N)
Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center (81O)
Mission Hills Branch Library (81Q)
Mission Valley Branch Library (81R)
Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library (81W)
Skyline Hills Branch Library (81HH)

Other Groups and Individuals

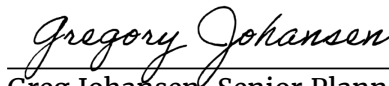
San Diego Gas and Electric (114)
San Diego Transit Corporation (112)
Community Planners Committee (194)
Balboa Park Committee (226 and 226A)
Barrio Logan Planning Group (240)
Chollas Valley Community Planning Group (449A)
Clairemont Community Planning Group (248)
College Area Community Planning Board (456)
Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (336)
Normal Heights Community Planning Group (291)
North Park Planning Committee (363)
Otay Mesa Nestor Community Planning Group (228)
Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Committee (443)
Southeastern San Diego Planning Group (449)
Barrio Station, Inc. (241)
Clairemont Town Council (257)
Normal Heights Community Association (292)
North Park Community Association (366)
Carmen Lucas (206)
South Coastal Information Center (210)
San Diego Archaeological Center (212)
San Diego History Center (211)
Save our Heritage Organisation (214)
Ron Christman (215)
Clint Linton (215b)
Frank Brown (216)
Margaret McCann
Todd Cardiff
San Diego County Archaeological Society (218)
Kumeyaay Cultural Heritage Preservation (223)
Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Society (225)
Native American Distribution (225 A-S) +FIGURE
Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (225A)
Campo Band of Mission Indians (225B)
Ewiiapaayp 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 (225I)
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 (225O)
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.



Greg Johansen, Senior Planner
Planning Department

February 10, 2023
Date of Draft Report

April 13, 2023
Date of Final Report

Attachments:

Undergrounding Utility Districts Project Boundaries (Figures 1-9)
Initial Study Checklist

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

Pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA guidelines, the City may analyze the significance of GHG emissions by considering whether the project is consistent with the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Accordingly, the City has directed that when determining whether a public infrastructure project has a significant impact, the initial study must consider whether the project conflicts with any of the reduction measures identified in the CAP.

A – 1

The draft MND concludes that the project is consistent with the CAP, but fails to address consistency with the CAP's identified reduction measures. Additionally, a greenhouse gas reduction plan must identify specific measures that substantial evidence demonstrates, if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level. (Guidelines, section 15183.5(1)(D).). The environmental document that relies on that reduction plan must specifically identify the applicable requirements and, if they are not binding and enforceable, include those requirements as mitigation measures. (Guidelines, section 15183.5(2))

A – 2

A – 1 Comment noted. As indicated in the Final MND, a Native American (Kumeyaay) monitor will be onsite to monitor any ground disturbing activities during project implementation.

A – 2 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND fails to address consistency with CAP's identified specific measures. CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(D) is a requirement for a qualified GHG-reduction plan. The City's qualified GHG-reduction plan is the CAP, which was adopted in December 2015, and updated in August 2022. To fulfill the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(D), the City's CAP Update included the CAP Consistency Regulations, multiple amendments to the Land Development Code section of the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC). The CAP Consistency Regulations apply to the following ministerial and discretionary projects:

- Residential development that results in 3 or more total dwelling units on all premises in the development;
- Non-residential development that adds more than 1,000 square feet and results in 5,000 square feet or more of total gross floor area, excluding unoccupied spaces such as mechanical equipment and storage areas; and
- Parking facilities as a primary use.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

The draft MND does not identify any specific measures of the CAP, as required by the Guidelines or include any mitigation measures for non-binding measures. Rather than considering each measure, it simply mentions the higher-level strategies. This is insufficient to establish CAP consistency under the requirements of the Guidelines. For example, as it relates to Strategy 3 of the CAP, the draft MND (pp. 28-29) states that after construction, "existing streets are returned to their previous configuration, including restriping of existing bike lanes, and pedestrian curb ramps are added where needed." This statement, however, is not sufficient to establish that the project is consistent with Strategy 3. In a June 17, 2022 memo regarding CAP consistency analysis for public infrastructure projects, the City Planning Department suggested that the environmental documents should highlight improvements that should be made, not simply restoring existing improvements.

A – 3

A – 2 Continued: As the proposed project does not fall into one of the three categories, above, the MND included a discussion of CAP Consistency as outlined in the memorandum, Climate Action Plan Consistency for Plan- and Policy-Level Environmental Documents and Public Infrastructure Projects. Section VII of the Initial Study, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, includes a discussion of the proposed project's consistency with each of the six strategies of the CAP.

A – 3 Comment noted. CEQA Guidelines 15183.5(b) is comprised of requirements for qualified GHG-reduction plans. The Final Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the Climate Action Plan outlines how the Update to the CAP meets each of the requirements of CEQA Guidelines 15183.5(b)(1)(A-F). As the proposed project is a public infrastructure project that would only have temporary construction GHG emissions, the IS/MND merely needed to demonstrate that the proposed project would not hinder the City meeting its CAP goals. Section VII of the Initial Study, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, includes a discussion of the proposed project's consistency with each of the six strategies of the CAP.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

Several CAP measures are obviously applicable, but the draft MND contains no discussion of consistency and does not include any mitigation measures related to CAP compliance:

Measure 3.1 of the CAP sets a goal of increasing the walk and bike mode share to set levels by 2030 and 2035. This measure is focused on increasing bike mode share, but the draft MND states that no bicycle improvements will be included when the streets are resurfaced. Simply restoring existing improvements will clearly not increase bicycle mode share from current levels. Thus, the draft does not explain how this project is consistent with this measure. This could be done, for example, by implementing the CAP-identified actions of developing safe routes to schools improvements where applicable, identifying pedestrian gaps, integrating micromobility parking stations and other improvements, reducing speed limits, and taking a "class IV first approach" to bike lanes to repurpose right of way.

A – 4

A – 4 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND did not consider bicycle mode share increases as a possibility of the repaving that is done after the undergrounding is finalized and it states that measure 3.1 is “focused on increasing bike mode share”. Trenching for undergrounding is generally approximately 2.5 feet wide, and for that reason, undergrounding does not generally include restriping. Section VII of the Initial Study, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, includes a discussion of how the proposed project is consistent with Strategy 3 of the CAP.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

As one example, Redwood Street is within the project scope and has a school and high traffic volumes, warranting pedestrian and bike improvements. Other sections, like Samson Street, Hilltop Drive, Fairmount and Morena Blvd., have been designated for pedestrian and bicycle improvements in existing plans and some are next to schools and parks. The draft MND makes no mention of these possible improvements. Each segment should be considered in light of community plans, specific plans, and the Bicycle Master Plan. Although it does not appear that the City currently has a bicycle facility selection guide, Table L.2 in Appendix L to the SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan suggests that protected bike lanes should be installed on any street with an ADT over 1500 or an 85 percentile operating speed over 30 mph. The draft MND should identify street segments meeting these criteria and require the installation of protected or buffered bike lanes as a mitigation measure.

A – 5

As these actions are not currently binding, the draft MND should include mitigation measures, as required by the Guidelines. Possible mitigation measures include the installation of Class IV bikeways on all high volume, high speed streets within the project area and consider additional pedestrian improvements on identified pedestrian corridors, including curb extensions, raised crosswalks, audible signals, etc.

A – 6

A – 5 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND should consider including pedestrian and bike improvements in several segments of this project in its analysis. The MND does discuss how all existing streets are returned to their previous configuration, including re-striping of existing bike lanes, and pedestrian curb ramps are added where needed. As the addition of pedestrian curb ramps will improve current conditions, the activities in this program will not conflict with the applicable CAP measures and actions identified in Strategy 3.

A – 6 Comment noted. This comment states that the actions being referenced in the above comments are not currently binding, and thus the draft MND should include mitigation measures involving bikeways. Please see response to comment A – 3.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

Without an analysis showing that the designated bicycle facilities and pedestrian improvements are consistent with the specific mode share targets identified in the CAP, the draft MND fails to establish consistency with the specific measures of the CAP. Unless pedestrian and bicycle facilities are maximized and required as mitigation measures or another method is used to establish a resulting mode share consistent with CAP goals, the draft MND is deficient.

A – 7

Measure 3.4 specifies that the city must install a specified number of roundabouts. The draft MND includes no analysis of whether any portion of this project would be appropriate for a roundabout. Each major intersection should be considered for a roundabout, including "quick build" roundabouts like the one recently installed on Florida Drive.

A – 8

Measure 3.6 requires the management of curb space. The draft MND includes no analysis of whether parking should be limited or metered within any part of the project area. As it relates to Measure 3.1, the draft MND should also consider whether on-street parking should be eliminated in certain areas to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

A – 9

A – 7 Comment noted. This comment states that without an analysis of the designated bicycle facilities and pedestrian improvements that this project would provide, it is not consistent with the CAP. As the proposed project is a public infrastructure project that would only have temporary construction GHG emissions, the IS/MND merely needed to demonstrate that the proposed project would not hinder the City meeting its CAP goals. Construction emissions from undergrounding utilities are not a large source of GHG emissions, and were also accounted for in the CAP GHG inventory. No mitigation for GHG emissions is required.

A – 8 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND did not consider the installation of roundabouts in its analysis. As the installation of roundabouts are not traditionally a part of UUP activities, this comment does not address the adequacy of the document.

A – 9 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND does not include analysis of whether parking should be limited or metered within the project area. See response to comment A-4.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/17/23 Brian Snyder

Measure 5.2 sets a goal of 28% urban canopy cover. The draft MND does not analyze whether the project will reach this goal. Although it suggests residents will be given an opportunity to plant trees, nothing requires these trees to be planted. To satisfy the requirements of the Guidelines, this must be included as a mitigation measure. If residents are not willing to plant trees, alternative methods, such as placing the trees in the city right of way, must be included.

A – 10

The draft MND also does not consider consistency with the Park Master Plan, which, like the CAP, encourages safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing parks within the city's street system. The draft MND does not identify the location of parks and whether any of the streets within the project scope serve as important connections to those parks. To achieve the goals of safe access, Appendix D of the Parks Master Plan states that parks should be awarded "points" for Class I or Cycle Track connections to parks. The draft MND does not analyze whether a Cycle Track can be added to any street within the project scope to increase connectivity as required by the Parks Master Plan. Without analyzing potential connections, the draft MND fails to establish consistency with the goals set forth in the Parks Master Plan.

A – 11

A – 10 Comment noted. This comment states that Measure 5.2 of the CAP sets a goal of 28% urban canopy cover and that this project is merely making trees available to residents that want to plant them. See response to comment A-3. Section VII of the Initial Study, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, includes a discussion of how the proposed project is consistent with Strategy 5 of the CAP.

A – 11 Comment noted. This comment states that the MND did not address consistency with the Parks Master Plan. The proposed project is to underground utilities. This project would have no physical impact on the City's parks, as it would not increase park use.

Letter

Response

Comments received 2/21/23 Viejas Tribal Government

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (“Viejas”) has reviewed the proposed projects and at this time we have determined that the project sites have cultural significance or ties to Viejas. Cultural resources that have been located within or adjacent to the APE-DE of the proposed projects.

Viejias Band request that a Kumeyaay Cultural Monitor be on site for ground disturbing activities and to inform us of any new developments such as inadvertent discovery of cultural artifacts, cremation sites, or human remains.

B-1

If you wish to utilize Viejas cultural monitors (Viejas rate is \$54.15/hr. plus GSA mileage), please call Ernest Pingleton at 619-655-0410 or email, epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov, for contracting and scheduling. Thank you.

Ray Teran

Viejas Tribal Government

Resource Management Director

619-659-2312

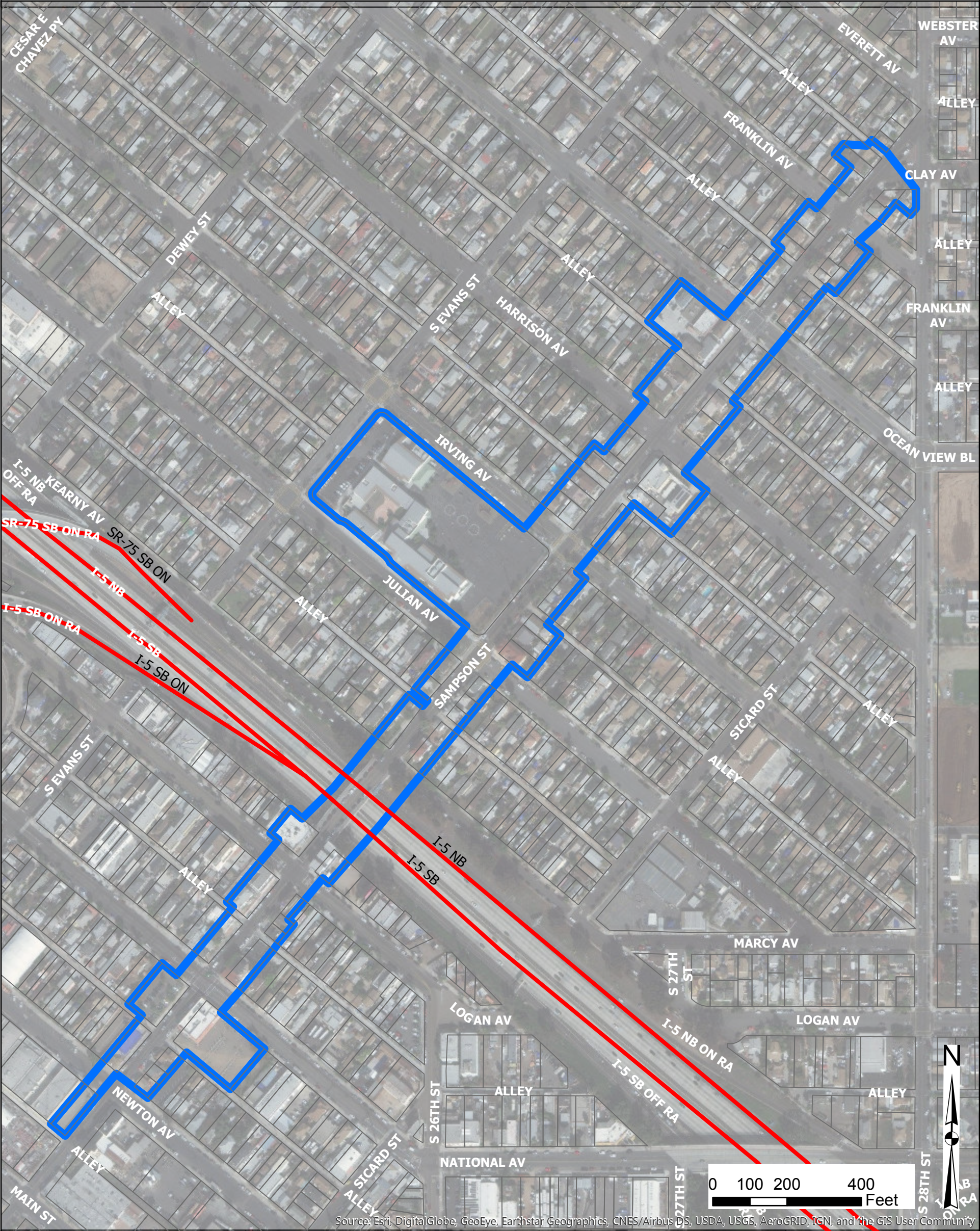
rteran@viejas-nsn.gov



B-1 Comment noted. As indicated in the Final MND, a Native American (Kumeyaay) monitor will be onsite to monitor any ground disturbing activities during project implementation.

SAMPSON ST - MAIN ST TO CLAY AVE (20A, UU602)

UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, LOGAN HEIGHTS / BARRIO LOGAN, CD 8



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



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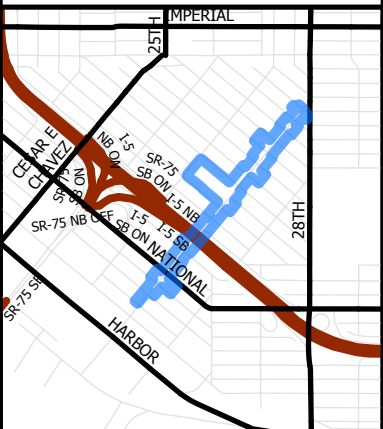
REVISIONS LIST

REVISION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
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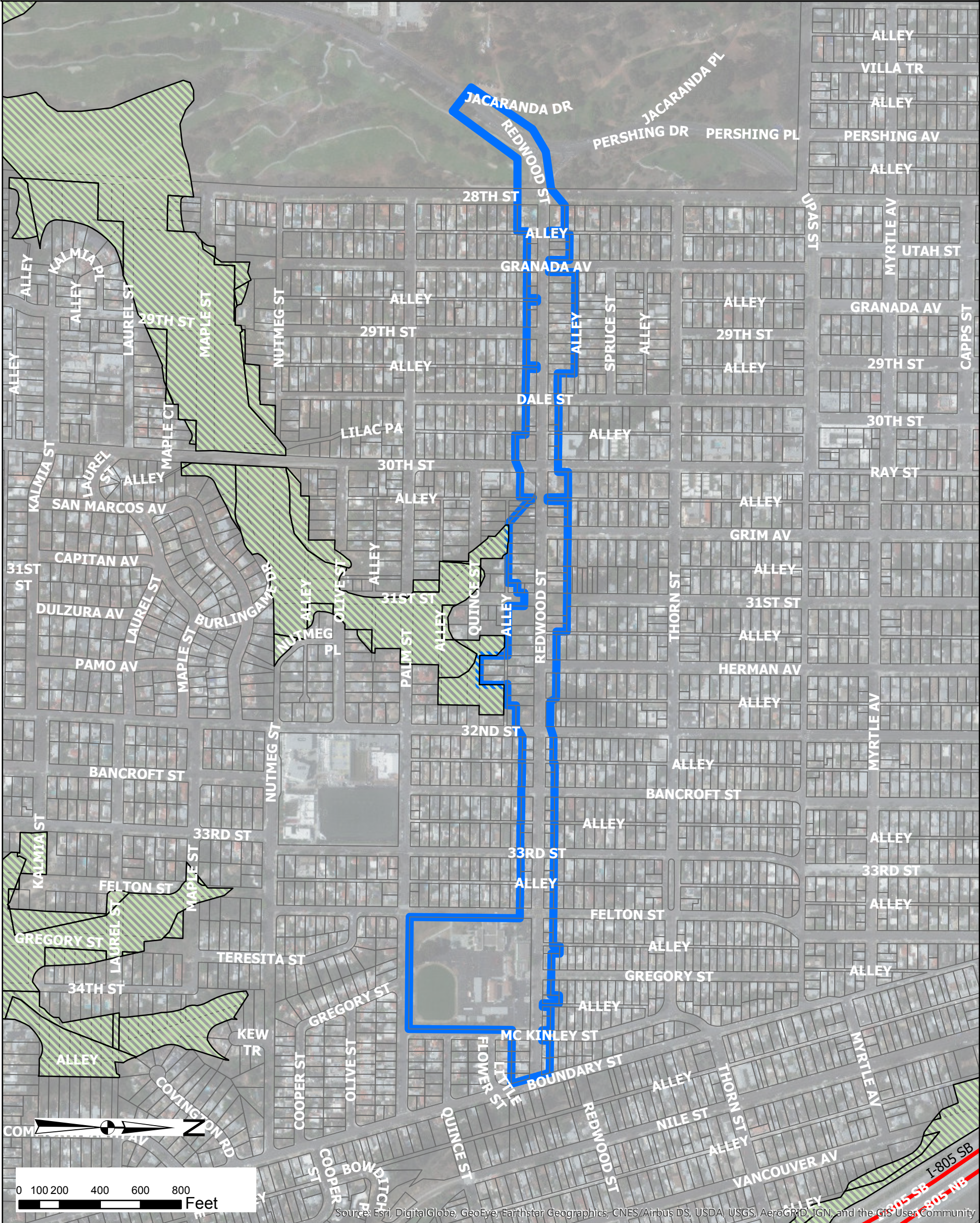
Legend

- Parcels
- Project Boundary

Vicinity Map



REDWOOD ST - PERSHING TO BOUNDARY ST, (20A, UU611)
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, GREATER NORTH PARK, CD 3



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-	BOUNDARY MAP	RB	10/24/18

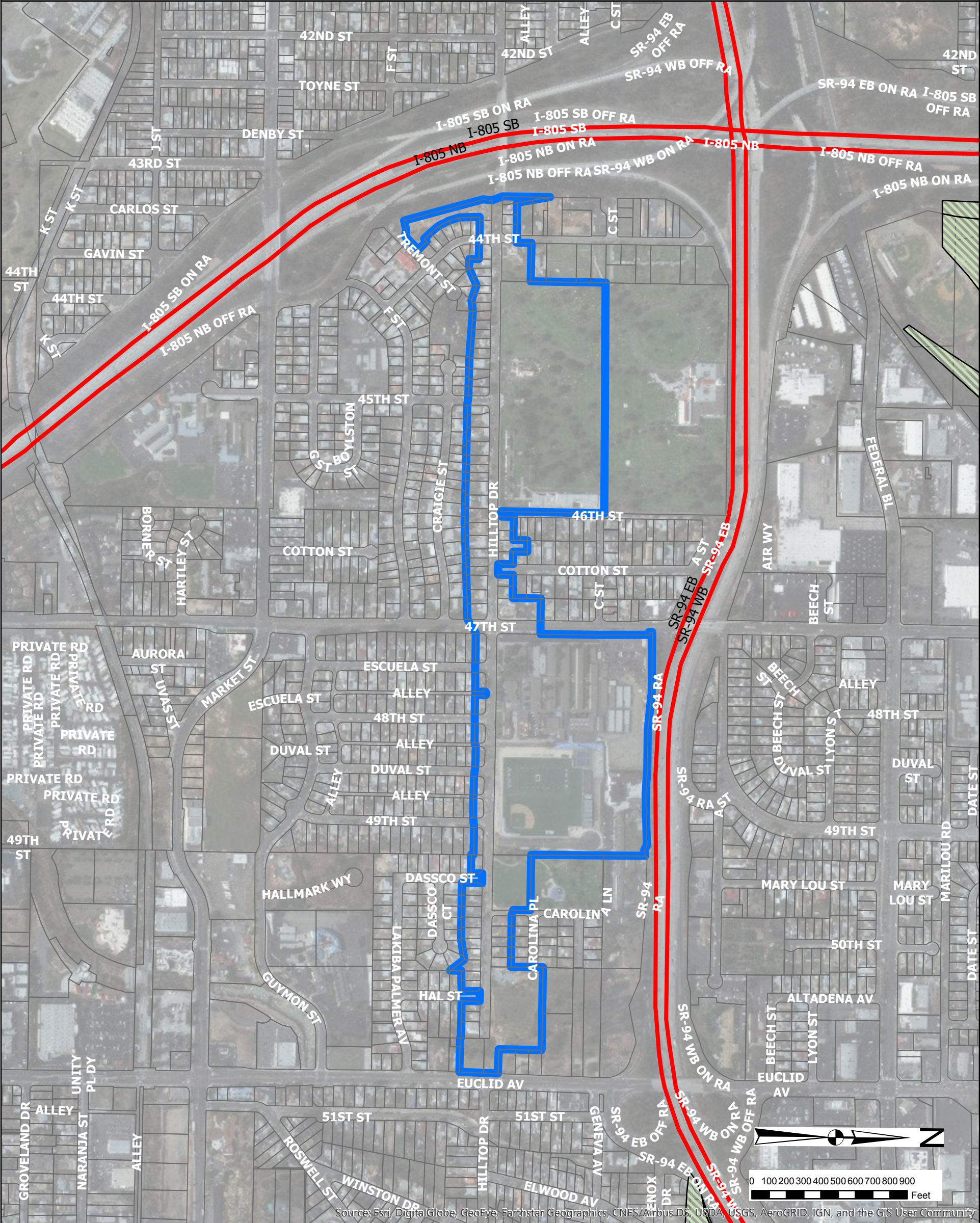
Legend

- Parcels
- MHPA
- Project Boundary

Vicinity Map



HILLTOP DR - 44TH ST TO EUCLID AVE, (20A, UU616)
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, EMERALD HILLS, CD 4



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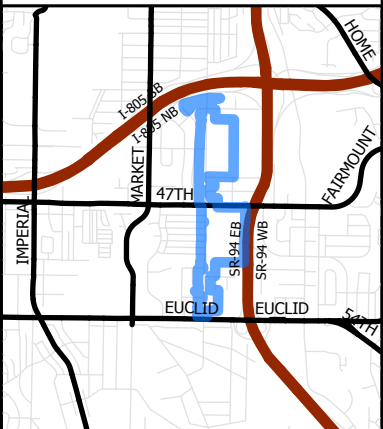
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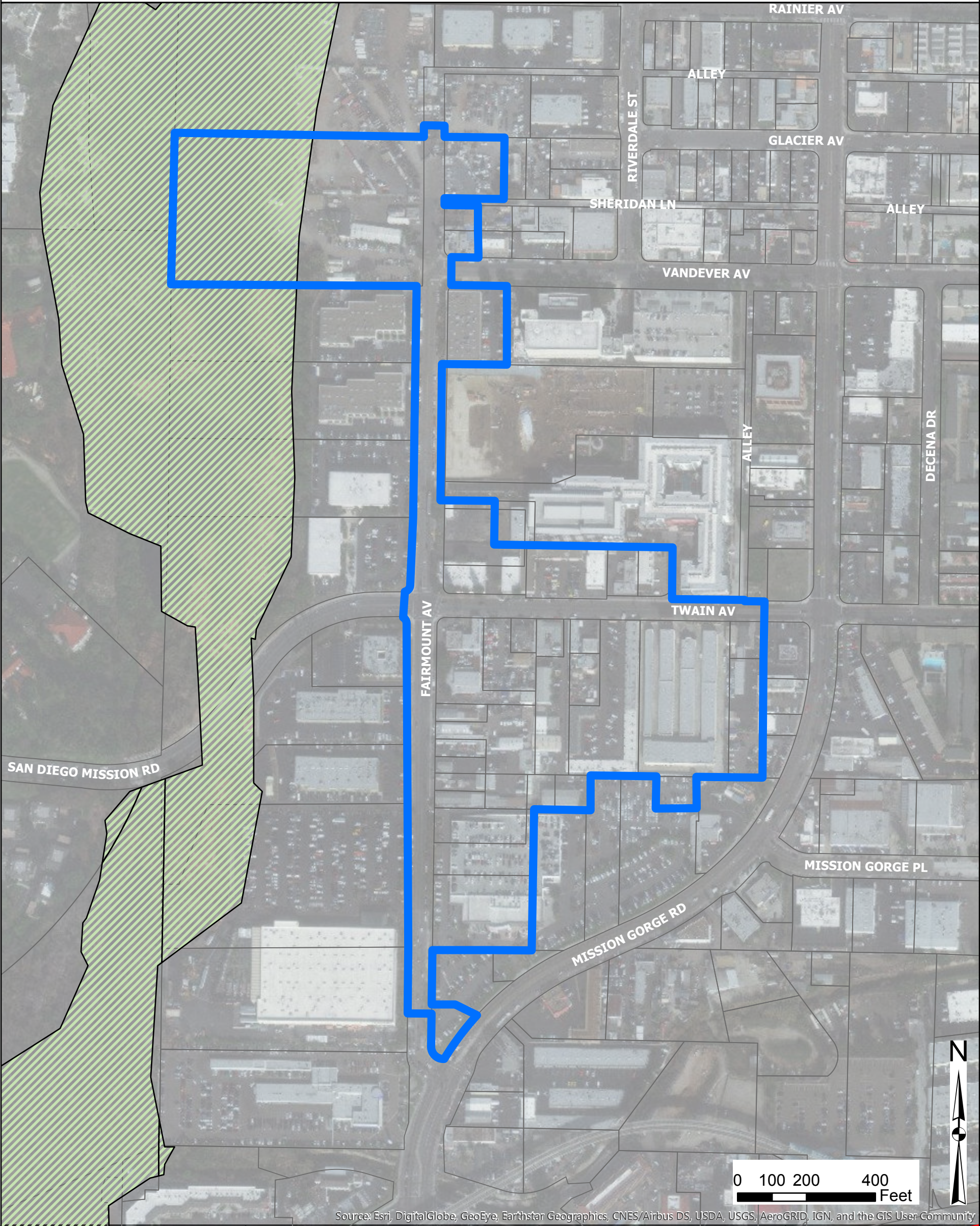
Legend

- MHPA
- Parcels
- Project Boundary

Vicinity Map



FAIRMOUNT AVE - MISSION GORGE TO SHERIDAN, (20A, UU628)
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, GRANTVILLE, CD 7



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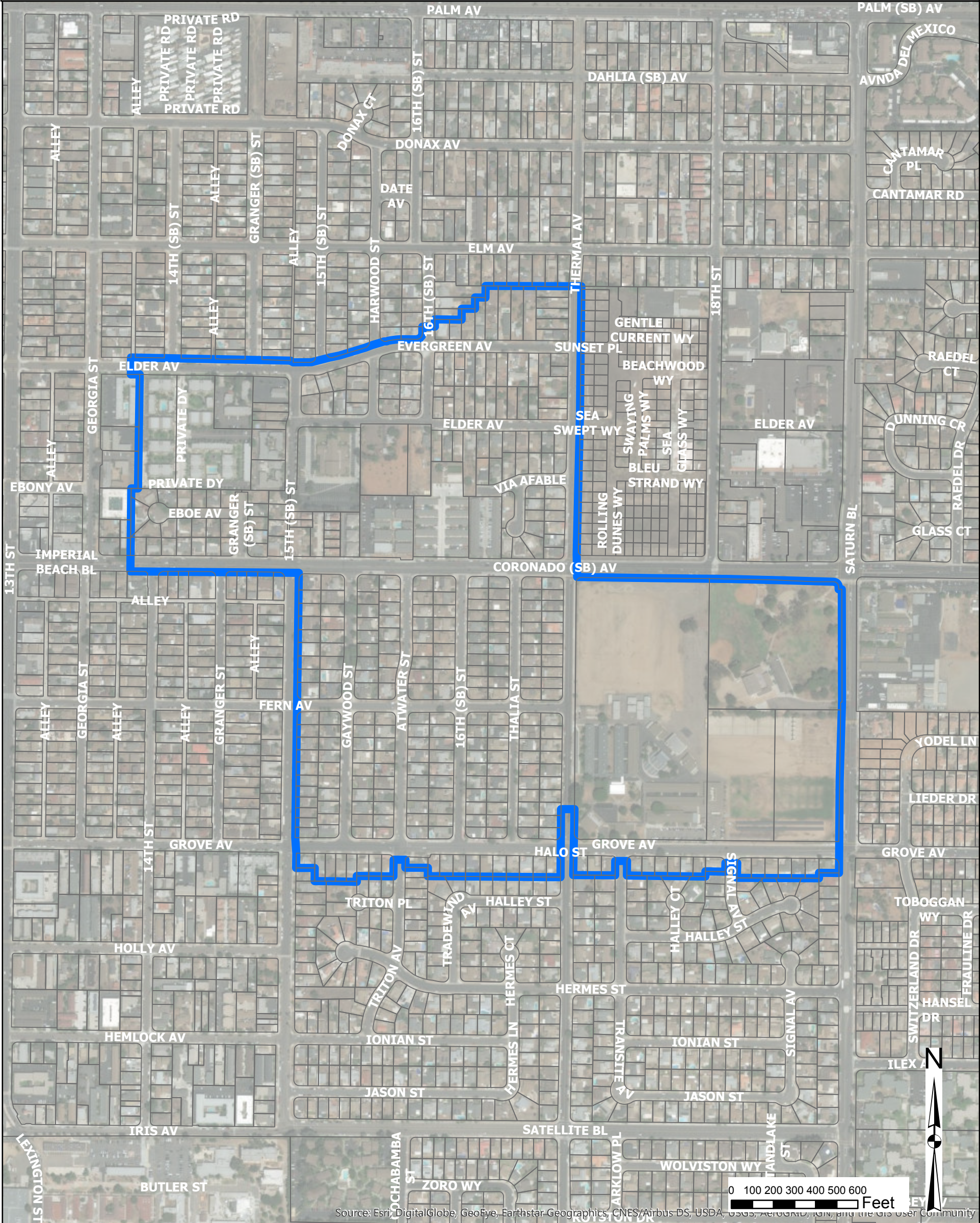
Legend

-  MHPA
-  Parcels

Vicinity Map



RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 8R1 (SURCHARGE, UU668) UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, EGGER HIGHLANDS, CD 8



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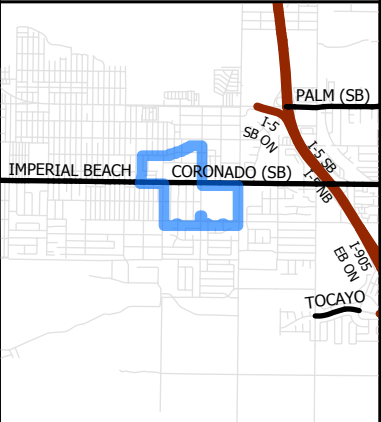
REVISIONS LIST

REVISION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
-	BOUNDARY MAP	RB	10/24/18

Legend

 Parcels

Vicinity Map



RESIDENTIAL PROJECT BLOCK 4Y1 (SURCHARGE, UU789) UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, JAMACHA LOMITA, CD 4



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



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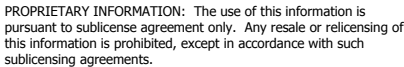
Legend

- Parcels
- Project Boundary

Vicinity Map



This aerial map displays a residential neighborhood with a proposed project highlighted by a red line and an existing route by a blue line. The red line runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom center, labeled with 'I-5 NB' and 'I-5 SB' in various segments. The blue line forms a large loop in the upper right and center of the map, connecting to the red line. Numerous streets are labeled, including Bunker Hill St, Ticonderoga St, Mission Bay Dr, and Clairemont Dr. A body of water is visible on the left side. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates distances from 0 to 500 feet, and a north arrow is located next to it. The source information at the bottom reads: 'Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community'.



REVISIONS LIST			
REVISION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
-	BOUNDARY MAP	RB	10/24/18

 MHPA
 Parcels
 Project Boundary

BLOCK 3DD (SURCHARGE, UU908)
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, ADAMS NORTH, CD 3



COLLIER A Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



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REVISIONS LIST

REVISION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
-	BOUNDARY MAP	RB	10/24/18

Legend

- MHPA
- Parcels
- Project Boundary

Vicinity Map



RESIDENTIAL BLOCK 70 (SURCHARGE, UU957)
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT, COLLEGE WEST, CD 9



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



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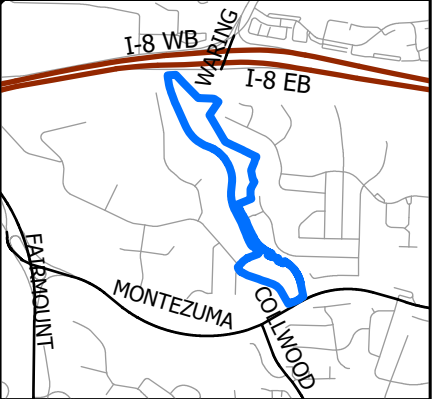
REVISIONS LIST

REVISION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
-	ENVIRONMENTAL MAP	RB	8/15/22

Legend

- MHPA
- Project Boundary
- Parcels

Vicinity Map



INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. Project Title/Project number: FY16 Allocation Undergrounding Utility Districts /PTS 463483
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: Greg Johansen, 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: UU602 Sampson Street from Main Street to Clay Avenue (Southeastern San Diego/Barrio Logan); UU611 Redwood Street from Pershing Drive to Boundary Street (Balboa Park/North Park); UU616 Hilltop Drive Phase II from 44th Street to Euclid Avenue (Encanto Neighborhoods); UU628 Fairmount Avenue from Mission Gorge Road to Sheridan Lane (Navajo); UU668 Residential Block 8R1 (Otay Mesa-Nestor); UU789 Residential Block 4Y1 (Skyline-Paradise Hills); UU875 Residential Block 6H1 (Clairemont Mesa); UU908 Residential Block 3DD (Normal Heights); and UU957 Residential Block 70 (College Area).
5. Project Applicant/Sponsor's name and address: City of San Diego, Transportation Department, Right-of-Way Management / Ana Legy Del Rincon, 9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100, MS 1900, San Diego, CA 92123, 858-541-4330..
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, Single and Multi-Family Residential, Mixed Use, Commercial, Parks and Open Space, partially within the Coastal Zone.
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 form the FY16 Allocation Undergrounding Utility Districts (UUD) in accordance with the San Diego Underground Utilities Procedural Ordinance. The districts would obligate utility companies to convert existing overhead lines to underground lines and would restrict utility companies from installing above-ground utility lines in the future, excluding electric transmission lines which are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. 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 trenches along approximately 18 miles of City streets that are approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of each public right-of-way, installing conduit and substructures such as above ground transformer boxes and pedestals on concrete pads, installing cable through the conduits, 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 right of way or a utility easement. Individual customer connections will be made by boring laterally underground, or by open trenching approximately three feet deep and two feet wide, from the main line in the right of way to the location of the customer's electric service box to install conduit and cable. Surfaces will be restored to pre-existing conditions (excluding newly installed above ground transformers and pedestals) when work is complete, depending on the method most suitable for site conditions. 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.

The project may include planting of street trees 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 will 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. The project may include removal, relocation, and/or trimming of street trees under the supervision of the City Arborist, and in conformance with Council Policy 900-19, where necessary for construction operations.

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.): None.
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 May 2017 and updated in October 2022 with the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and resulted in a recommendation for Native American Kumeyaay monitoring during all construction-related trenching activities in the project area.

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:

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.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |

- ☐ Utilities/Service System ☐ Geology/Soils ☐ Noise
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ 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
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I) AESTHETICS – Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

☐
☐
☐
☒

The proposed projects would not substantially affect a scenic vista since they would be located primarily under the public right-of-way and would not be visible once constructed, except for the transformer boxes placed above ground on concrete pads. The proposed projects would improve the visual quality of the area by removing existing above ground utility poles and lines, excluding electric transmission lines which are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission.

- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Please see I.a. The proposed projects would be constructed almost exclusively below grade and are not located within a scenic highway. Furthermore, street trees present within the proposed UUDs are subject to Council Policy 900-19, which provides for protection for street trees, except as required because of tree health or public safety. Landmark trees, heritage trees, parkway resource trees, and preservation groves are provided extra protection under Council Policy 900-19.

- c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Although the projects would enhance the overall community character by removing unsightly overhead lines and poles, it would also require the placement of aboveground electric transformer boxes, fuse cabinets, and telecommunication pedestals in the public right of way or an easement. The size, number, and placement of boxes and pedestals depend on several factors including the electric load, distance between customers, and conflicts with existing facilities. In residential neighborhoods, electric transformers are most commonly 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet green boxes placed on concrete pads measuring 4 feet by 4 feet and several inches tall. Pedestal sizes are more variable between the different telecommunication companies but are often smaller. The number of transformer boxes typically varies between 1 per 8 homes to 1 per 15 homes. The location of existing overhead lines (e.g., alleys or back lots) does not necessarily dictate where new underground and aboveground facilities will be located. A pre-design community forum will be held several months prior to construction to present proposed locations for equipment and allow property owners and residents to communicate their concerns and preferences to the design teams to help guide decisions about utility box and streetlight locations.

Structures receiving the undergrounded utility service would require conduit to be placed on the outside of the building running from the ground to the electric service panel.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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 diameter. The placement of exterior equipment on designated historic structures would be reviewed by historic resources staff when electric service conversion permits are issued. In addition, new streetlights installed in the potential Altadena historic district would conform to City standards for the neighborhood.

The addition of the above-ground transformer boxes and pedestals and building attachments would not substantially change the character of the developed areas where they would be installed. Although, some property owners may find the new equipment unattractive, the overall visual impact to the neighborhood would be improved by removing the overhead lines and poles. As such, impacts to neighborhood character would be less than significant.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

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The proposed projects would not have the potential to create light or glare impacts. Existing streetlights will be removed and replaced in like and kind. Additional streetlights may be added due to safety concerns if it is determined that a particular location or intersection is made safer 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?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

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The proposed projects will be constructed within the developed public right-of-way on land not zoned for agriculture or part of a Williamson Act Contract.

- 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))?

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The public right-of-way and land surrounding the proposed project sites are not zoned as forest land. Therefore, the proposed utility projects would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land.

- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

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The utility project sites are located within the developed public right-of-way and the land surrounding the proposed projects are not designated forest land. Therefore, the proposed projects would not convert forest land to non-forest use.

- 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?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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No existing agricultural uses are located in proximity of the project sites that could be affected by the proposed projects.

III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations – Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plan for attainment and maintenance of the ambient air quality standards in the San Diego Air Basin (SDAB). The County Regional Air Quality Standards (RAQS) was initially adopted in 1991 and is updated on a triennial basis. The RAQS relies on growth projections based on population, vehicle trends, and land use plans developed by the cities and by the County as a part of the development of their general plans. As such, projects that propose development that is consistent with the growth anticipated by local plans would be consistent with the RAQS. The proposed project would be consistent with the applicable community plans, and public infrastructure construction is anticipated in the RAQS. Furthermore, operation of undergrounded utility lines would not generate emissions, and thus, would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.

- 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)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Operation of the proposed projects would have no emissions and, thus, no impact. Construction of the proposed projects could increase the amount of harmful pollutants entering the air basin. However, for construction air quality impacts, the City of San Diego Significance Determination Thresholds (City of San Diego, 2022) provides project examples for screening purposes. For construction, the example is a project that would result in 100

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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pounds per day of PM₁₀ emissions. Roughly 100 pounds of PM₁₀ is generated by grading 4 acres per day. The proposed projects would trench approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of each public right-of-way. To equal 4 acres of grading in a day would require approximately 2.6 miles of trenching in a day. The proposed projects would not come close to producing even 0.1-mile (528 feet) of trenching in a day. Construction of the proposed projects is not of a magnitude that would result contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard, and thus, construction impacts would be less than significant.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

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Construction operations could temporarily increase the emissions of harmful pollutants, which could affect sensitive receptors adjacent to the proposed project sites. However, construction emissions would be temporary, and it is anticipated that implementation of construction BMPs would reduce potential impacts related to construction activities to minimal levels. Therefore, the proposed projects would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

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Operation of construction equipment and vehicles could generate odors associated with fuel combustion. However, these odors would only remain temporarily in proximity to the construction equipment and vehicles. After construction is complete, there would be no objectionable odors associated with the proposed projects.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

- 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?

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All trenching would occur within the developed public right-of-way, outside of the City's Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) and wetland, Tier I, II, or IIIA/B habitat. The majority of utility pole removal work would also occur within the developed public right-of-way, except for the removal of five poles in two UUDs that occur within SDG&E access easements.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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UU957 Block 70 has one pole in coastal sage scrub (Tier II) habitat approximately 30 feet from the road, but not in the MHPA. UU908 Block 3DD has four poles in coastal sage scrub (Tier II) habitat, two of which are in the City's MHPA. A biological survey of Block 3DD was conducted on September 14, 2017 (Dudek 2017). No special status plants species were found; however, one coastal California gnatcatcher was observed within the study area.

Removal of any poles within the MHPA and coastal sage scrub would be conducted outside of the coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season (March 1 to August 15). Poles that cannot be accessed from existing roadways would be cut down to ground level in small sections and carried out on foot. No new access roads would be created. Foot paths to pole removal locations inaccessible from existing roads would not constitute a direct significant impact to vegetation communities or special-status plants because no vegetation will be removed, and measures will be taken to ensure that vegetation can recover from trampling. Because the vegetation communities within and adjacent to both UUDs provide suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species, compliance with the MHPA Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (LUAG) outlined in the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Subarea Plan and further described in Land Use and Planning, Section X(c) would ensure potential impacts to special-status wildlife within 300 feet of construction activities would be less than significant.

- 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?

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A portion of UU628 Fairmount Avenue is located within the San Diego River corridor, but there is no riparian habitat within the work limits of the proposed UUD. Existing overhead utility lines would be placed below the paved and/or improved roadway, which would not have an adverse effect on adjacent sensitive habitat. In addition, two utility poles in UU908 Block 3DD would be removed from SDG&E easements located within sensitive habitat in the MHPA. However, foot paths to pole removal locations would not be considered a significant impact since no vegetation would be removed and measures would be taken to ensure that vegetation can recover from trampling. As described in IV.a, pole removal in the MHPA would be performed manually without heavy equipment and would not create a significant impact.

- 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,

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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hydrological interruption, or other means?

Please see IV.a and b above. There are no wetlands within the work limits of the proposed UUDs, and as such no impacts would result from the project.

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| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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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.

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| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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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 MHPA LUAG. Reasonable steps will be taken to protect existing trees while work is in progress. Tree removal will be performed only when necessary for undergrounding construction as determined in consultation with the City's arborist. In addition, planting of new street trees will be offered to all property owners after lines are placed underground, provided that property owners sign an agreement to water the tree until it is established.

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The City's 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 down to ground level, cut into smaller sections, and carried out on foot. The project would be required to comply with the MHPA LUAG described below 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.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource as defined in §15064.5? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

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)).

None of the underground utility districts are located within the boundary of a designated historic district or within the boundary of a potential historic district identified in a historic survey, with the exception of the Redwood Street – Pershing to Boundary Street (20A, UU611) district, which is within the boundary of the potential Altadena historic district. The potential Altadena historic district was identified in the 2016 North Park Community Plan Area Historic Resources Survey and is currently under intensive survey and evaluation by the City to confirm eligibility. If eligible, the Altadena historic district will be brought before the City's Historical Resources Board to consider designation. The undergrounding of utilities is not considered a significant impact to a historic district. Overhead wires are not considered character defining features worthy of preservation, and the installation of modern utility infrastructure such as

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transformer boxes are not significant intrusions on designated or potential historic districts that would adversely impact their ability to convey their significance as a collective resource. Additionally, impacts to the historic fabric of a designated or potential historic district can be mitigated through project design requirements and City standards, such as:

- Siting any new or relocated electric service boxes on the sides of buildings, rather than the front facade.
- Trimming trees under the guidance of a qualified arborist and removal of trees only when the tree is no longer viable.
- 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 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.

Conversion work, including but not limited to trenching, boring, conduit installation, and utility box upgrades, on individual properties that are designated historic resources will be reviewed by City Historic Resources staff at the time when permit applications are submitted to ensure that work would not impact the historical status of the property.

Implementation of these measures, which are consistent with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and are implemented within designated historic districts in the City of San Diego, would ensure that the proposed utility undergrounding project would not adversely impact the potential Altadena Historic District nor preclude possible future designation of the resource.

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.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Please see V.a. A 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 1/4 mile of each project area, and as noted above in V.a, there is a potential for resources to be encountered anywhere in the project areas; especially in proximity to the coast or bays. 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. As such, archaeological and Native American monitoring would be required during all construction-related activities required to implement the project.

- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

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paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Project plans do not call for trenching depths that exceed the City of San Diego's CEQA Significance thresholds for paleontological resources. Therefore, no impact would occur to paleontological or unique geologic resources.

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| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Please refer to section V.a. Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be required during soil disturbing activities. If human remains are encountered, all provisions of the 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. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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| 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Part of UU875 Block 6H1 is located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone and parts of UU602 Sampson Street, UU611 Redwood Street, UU908 Block 3DD, and UU957 Block 70 are located in proximity to several faults. However, the projects do not include any structures for human occupancy and would utilize proper engineering design and construction practices. There would be no risk from rupture of a known earthquake fault in this category.

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| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed projects are primarily located on soil classified by the City of San Diego Seismic Safety Study as low to moderate risk. UU602 Sampson Street, UU875 Block 6H1, UU611 Redwood Street, UU908 Block 3DD, and UU957 Block 7O are located in proximity to several faults which could have the potential for strong ground shaking. However, the projects do not include any structures for human occupancy. The proposed projects would utilize proper engineering design and construction practices to ensure the potential for impacts from ground shaking would remain less than significant.

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| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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UU628 Fairmount Avenue is located on soil with high potential for liquefaction. However, none of the projects include any structures for human occupancy, and they would all be constructed primarily underground. With the appropriate engineering design and construction practices incorporated, the potential impacts from ground failure or liquefaction would remain less than significant.

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| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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The proposed projects will be constructed on relatively flat developed land within the right-of-way or on private developed property that does not have a potential for landslides and is not located near the base of a slope that is subject to landslides. The proposed projects would not expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. The design of the proposed projects would utilize proper engineering design and utilization of standard construction practices to ensure that the potential for impacts would be less than significant.

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| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Construction of the proposed projects would include trenching within the developed public right-of-way and trenching or boring on private property. After the conduit and cable is placed, all disturbed areas would be replaced in kind. During construction, storm water BMPs would minimize erosion. Therefore, the projects would not cause substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

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| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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UU628 Fairmount Avenue is located on soils with the potential for liquefaction. However, all of the proposed projects would be constructed within the developed public right-of-way mostly below grade at depths no greater than approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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and would be backfilled and the surface restored. The design of the proposed projects would utilize appropriate engineering design and standard construction practices that would not contribute to unstable soil conditions. There would be no impacts.

- 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?

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The proposed projects do not include any structures for human occupancy and would be constructed within the developed public right-of-way mostly below grade. The design of the proposed projects would utilize appropriate engineering design and construction practices to ensure that the potential for impacts would be less than significant.

- 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?

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The proposed projects would not utilize septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:

- a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

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Pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted in 2015 and updated in 2022. The CAP quantifies greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, establishes a threshold for cumulatively considerable emissions, and specifies strategies for emission reductions along with a mechanism to monitor progress.

The CAP's first strategy is aimed at removing carbon from the built environment, with a focus on the removal of natural gas or methane. The City's goals under Strategy 1 include removing fossil fuels from new building construction, transitioning away from burning methane and other fossil fuels, and transitioning buildings to cleaner, zero emissions sources or technologies. Actions related to decarbonization of the built environment include developing a comprehensive roadmap to achieve decarbonization of the existing building stock, developing and adopting a building electrification policy, requiring new residential and commercial buildings to eliminate the use of natural gas, increase energy efficiency, increase distributed energy generation and storage, and increase EV charging stations. Strategy 1 actions are directed at City staff and City Council to adopt ordinances,

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plans, and supporting City requirements to achieve the City's targets. The proposed projects would not include any new buildings; therefore, the projects would not conflict with the applicable CAP goals and actions identified in Strategy 1. The undergrounding of utility lines will reduce recurring tree trimming and maintenance that occurs throughout the districts prior to undergrounding. This maintenance is required for the safe operation of overhead powerlines and is eliminated when those lines are relocated underground. Chain saws, trimmers and woodchippers are powered by fossil fuels and produce GHG emissions including nitrous oxide, a powerful global-warming gas. Therefore, reducing their use would reduce GHG emissions. During construction, California regulations limit construction equipment and vehicle idling by requiring that equipment be shut off when not in use and that idling not exceed five minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Signs must be posted at entrances to work sites stating this requirement. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) enforces idling limitations and compliance with diesel fleet regulations. CARB also issues certificates of compliance for off-road diesel-powered equipment. In summation, operation of the proposed project would reduce the amount of GHG emissions needed to maintain the utility delivery systems in the City and construction of the proposed project would limit emissions to the extent possible, and, thus, the proposed project is consistent with the goal of CAP Update Strategy 1 to decarbonize the built environment.

Strategy 2 maintains the City's commitment to 100% clean and renewable energy while acknowledging that transitioning towards these sources is key to reducing the City's GHG emissions. It also sets ambitious targets for converting the City's fleet of vehicles to electric. It is set to develop a citywide electric vehicle (EV) strategy to accelerate EV adoption, including flexible fleets, circulators, and electric bicycles, focusing on the barriers to ownership and charging for residents within Communities of Concern. Some of the supporting actions that the City plans to use to achieve this are, update AR 35.80 to include EV vehicles to the list of preferred purchases, to conduct a City fleet electrification study to determine best siting, funding needs, and strategies including specific strategies for the Chollas operations yard. The proposed projects would change the location of electric distribution and telecommunication lines from overhead service to underground service. It would not include any measures that would change the source of energy supplied, increase operational energy demand, or interfere with the City's transition to renewable energy sources. The projects would necessitate that houses or buildings with electrical service panels that do not meet current codes are updated, which could help facilitate the houses' or building's readiness for the installation of renewable energy upgrades such as photovoltaic solar panels. Therefore, the projects would not conflict with the City's ability to implement the actions identified in Strategy 2. Therefore, the proposed projects would support the applicable CAP measures and actions identified in Strategy 2.

Strategy 3 focuses on emissions from transportation, the single largest source of GHG emissions in San Diego, and establishes actions that support shifting trips away from vehicles through mobility and land use actions and policies. It focuses on providing safe and enjoyable routes for pedestrians and cyclists, increasing access to safe, convenient, and enjoyable transit, work from anywhere measures to reduce traffic congestion to improve air quality, and climate-focused land use. The projects would create temporary impacts to streets that are being trenched or repaved, however, Traffic Control Plans are required for construction permits and reroute mass transit, bicycles, and pedestrians during construction. After construction, existing streets are returned to their previous configuration, including re-striping of existing bike lanes, and pedestrian curb ramps are

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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added where needed. Although the projects would remove poles from the right of way, it would add above-ground transformer boxes and pedestals. In rare cases, existing bicycle infrastructure may need to be moved to accommodate the new above-ground equipment, but it would remain accessible in the same general area. Therefore, the proposed projects would not conflict with the applicable CAP measures and actions identified in Strategy 3.

Strategy 4 will expand the City's zero waste goals for gas and waste management by supporting efforts to increase composting, prevent food waste, and develop the local circular economy. The proposed projects would not generate waste or wastewater during operation and would therefore not conflict with the goals and actions identified in Strategy 4. Much of the solid waste generated during construction consists of inert material such as dirt, concrete, and rock which would not generate methane emissions and would be recycled to the extent feasible. Treated wooden utility poles are considered hazardous waste, which cannot be recycled, and would be disposed in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. Additionally, these projects will reduce the amount of tree trimming required by above ground lines, allowing for a larger and healthier urban tree canopy in the locations where overhead lines are removed. In that these projects will reduce tree trimming they will also reduce the amount of green waste produced from this activity. This in turn will reduce GHGs associated with transporting and disposing of that green waste material. Each of these project operations would generally not increase solid waste production, and thus, not impede the achievement of this goal. Therefore, the proposed projects would not conflict with the applicable CAP updates measures and actions identified in Strategy 4.

Strategy 5 will help the City thrive in the face of the impacts of climate change through a greater focus on resilient infrastructure and healthy ecosystems. To accomplish this measure, the City plans to protect and restore urban canyons and wetlands and increase tree planting in Communities of Concern starting with the planting of 40,000 new trees in these communities by 2030. Additionally, the City will create a Street Tree Master Plan with a target of planting 100,000 trees by 2035. These actions will focus on the planting and establishing of trees within urban landscapes. During the construction process, every effort would be made to avoid removal of existing street trees by requiring a consultation with the City's Horticulturalist whenever a tree root greater than two inches in diameter must be pruned or removed. Nonetheless, on very rare occasions a tree may need to be removed for purposes of worker and public safety. However, as part of the post-construction street improvements, new street trees are offered at no cost to each property with a feasible planting location regardless of whether an existing tree was impacted. Additionally, when overhead utility lines are relocated underground, they require very little plant matter removal to maintain. This reduction in the removal of carbon sequestering plant material would protect tree canopy cover and conserve green spaces within the City. Therefore, the proposed projects would not conflict with the City's measures and actions to implement Strategy 5 and would support the City's action to increase tree canopy coverage.

Strategy 6 addresses those GHG emissions that will remain after all currently identified measures and actions have been achieved, which account for roughly 20% of total GHG emissions by 2035. To succeed in our overall goal, the City must continue to identify additional actions, pursue technological innovation, expand partnerships, and support research that reduces GHG emissions in all sectors. In the last decade, extended droughts and regular adverse weather conditions have set the stage for disastrous fires across the Southwestern United states. The strategic undergrounding of overhead utility lines in at

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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risk (or fire prone) communities reduces the chance of these overhead lines sparking fires during adverse weather events and thus protects established tree canopy cover in the City. At risk or fire prone areas can often occur at areas where Open Space or Canyon Lands occur in the vicinity of urban or suburban settings. As undergrounding has the potential to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in fire prone areas, it can reduce any subsequent GHG emissions that would be caused by the combustion of plant and housing materials. As wildland and open space fires occur more frequently, they have the potential to become a larger and larger contributor to GHG emission in San Diego. Therefore, the proposed projects potential reduction in one of the main causes of said fires would not conflict with the applicable CAP updates measures and actions identified in Strategy 6.

The proposed projects would not conflict with CAP strategies and would not impede the City's ability to implement the actions identified in the CAP to achieve the City's goals and targets and associated GHG emission reductions. Therefore, there would be no impact.

- b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

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Please also see VII.a. It is anticipated that the proposed projects would not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations related to greenhouse gases. There is no impact.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

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Construction of the proposed projects may require the use of hazardous materials (fuels, lubricants, solvents, etc.), which would require proper storage, handling, use and disposal; however, the projects would not routinely transport, use or dispose of hazardous materials. In addition, construction standards shall be implemented for any subsurface discoveries, to meet local, state, and federal standards. Therefore, the projects would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

- 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?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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UU875 Block 6H1, UU628 Fairmount Avenue, and UU602 Sampson Street 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 contractor would be required to implement §803, "Encountering or Releasing Hazardous Substances or Petroleum Products," of the City of San Diego Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction ("Whitebook") which is included in all construction documents and would ensure the proper handling and disposal of any contaminated soils in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Compliance with these requirements would minimize the risk to the public and the environment; therefore, impacts would remain less than significant.

- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

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There are schools located within a quarter mile of the UUD project boundaries. However, please see VIII.a and VIII.b. Impacts would be less than significant.

- 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?

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The proposed project sites are not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No impact would occur.

- 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?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed projects are not located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan or an airport land use plan pending adoption. The proposed projects will replace overhead utility lines and poles with new underground utility systems. New streetlights 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 streetlights 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.

- 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?

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The proposed projects are not within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

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Construction of the proposed projects would temporarily affect traffic circulation within the project boundaries. However, an approved Traffic Control Plan would be implemented during construction which would allow emergency plans to be employed. Impacts would be less than significant.

- 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?

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The proposed projects would remove overhead utility lines and poles, and place them underground, thereby reducing the risks associated with this category. In addition, the project does not contain wildlands that could pose a threat of wildland fires. As such, the proposed projects would not introduce any new features that would increase the risk of fire because the utilities will be located underground.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

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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. Conformance to BMP's outlined in the Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) and conformance with the City's Storm Water Standards 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.

- b) 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 pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

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The proposed projects do not propose the use of groundwater. Furthermore, the projects would not introduce significant new impervious surfaces that could interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, the proposed projects would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

- c) 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?

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There are no streams or rivers within the project boundaries. The proposed projects will be located below the surface of the paved roadway and connected to private properties and would not change drainage patterns. Upon completion of the installation of the utility lines, the streets would be returned to their preexisting conditions, as will the areas where poles are removed. Therefore, the projects would not substantially alter any existing drainage patterns.

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area,

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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including 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 on- or off-site?

Please see IX.c. Since the proposed projects would not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns and would not introduce additional impermeable surfaces, the rate of surface runoff 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?

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Please see IX.c and d. Conformance to BMP's outlined in the WPCP and compliance with the City's Stormwater Regulations would prevent or effectively minimize short-term construction impacts. Therefore, the utility projects would not contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing storm water systems.

- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

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Conformance to BMPs outlined in the WPCP to be prepared for the proposed projects and compliance with the City's Stormwater Regulations would prevent or effectively minimize impacts and would preclude impacts to water quality.

- 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?

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The proposed projects do not propose construction of any new housing.

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area, structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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UU628 Fairmount Avenue is located within the 100-year flood hazard area (Zones AE and AO), while the other eight UUDs are located within areas of minimal flood hazard (Zone X). The proposed projects do not propose any new structures that would impede or redirect flood flows in the 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

- 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?

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The proposed projects would not include any new features that would increase the risk associated with flooding beyond those of the existing conditions.

- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

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The proposed projects would not include any new features that would increase the risk associated with seiche, tsunami, or mudflow beyond those of the existing conditions.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?

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Implementation of the proposed projects would involve replacing and installing utility infrastructure below ground and would not introduce any features that could physically divide 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?

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The proposed projects would relocate overhead utilities to be placed underground within the developed public right-of-way and 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. The project is 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

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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 exist within and adjacent to the City's MHPA. As described in IV f), 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 Land Use Adjacency Guidelines would ensure potential land use impacts from construction and pole removal would be less than significant.

- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

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Construction of all proposed UUD projects will be located within developed land and therefore, 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 UU908 Block 3DD and UU957 Block 70 are located within the boundaries of the City's MSCP Subarea Plan, 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. Field surveys were conducted to assess the vegetation communities on site and determined that no impacts would result from pole removal in these areas (Dudek 2017). Refer to Section IV.a., Biological Resources discussion for further details. Despite having no direct impacts to biological resources, because the UUD projects are 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). 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 Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (LUAG) as outlined in the City's MSCP Subarea Plan (Section 1.4.3). Compliance with, and implementation of 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?

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The areas surrounding the proposed projects 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.

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally

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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:

- 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?

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The proposed projects would only generate noise during construction activities, which would be temporary and transitory in nature. Therefore, people would not be exposed to noise levels in excess of any noise regulations.

- b) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

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Please see XII.a.

- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

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Please see XII.a.

- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing without the project?

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Construction of the proposed projects would result in a temporary increase in the ambient noise 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 increase in ambient noise would be less than significant.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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 are not within an airport land use plan or two miles of a public airport.

- 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?

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The proposed project areas are not within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would 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)?

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The proposed projects would remove existing utility poles and overhead lines and place the lines underground. The utility projects are intended to improve the currently outdated overhead system in order to keep up with current demand. The projects would not build any new housing, businesses, roadways, or infrastructure that could induce growth.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

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The proposed projects would underground overhead utilities and would not remove, displace, or otherwise affect existing housing in any way that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed projects would underground overhead utilities and would not result in the displacement of people, which would necessitate the construction of replacement housing.

XIV. 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:

- i) Fire Protection ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Since the proposed utility undergrounding projects would not result in population growth, the projects would not trigger the need to construct or alter governmental facilities including fire protection facilities.

- ii) Police Protection ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed projects would not physically alter any police protection facilities. The undergrounding of utilities would not trigger the need to construct or alter police protection facilities.

- iii) Schools ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed projects would not trigger the need to physically alter any schools. Additionally, the proposed projects would not include construction of future housing or induce growth that could increase demand for schools in the area.

- v) Parks ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed projects would not physically alter any parks. Therefore, the proposed projects would not create demand for new parks or other recreational facilities.

- vi) Other public facilities ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed projects would not increase the demand for electricity, gas, or other public facilities.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. RECREATION –

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

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Implementation of the proposed projects would place existing overhead utility lines underground. The improved infrastructure would not allow for improved access to existing recreation areas. The proposed projects would not directly generate additional trips to existing recreation areas or induce future growth that would result in additional trips to these facilities. Therefore, the proposed projects would not increase the use of existing recreational areas such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

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The proposed projects do not include the construction of recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project?

- a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways,

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				
<u>Construction of the proposed projects would temporarily affect traffic circulation within the project boundaries in the areas of construction. However, an approved Traffic Control Plan would be implemented during construction so that traffic circulation would not be substantially impacted. Therefore, the projects would not result in an increase of traffic which is substantial in relation to existing traffic capacity.</u>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Construction of the proposed projects would temporarily affect traffic circulation within the project boundaries. However, an approved Traffic Control Plan would be implemented during construction so that traffic would not exceed cumulative or individual level of service.</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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>The proposed projects do not include any structures taller than existing street lights or utility poles or new features that would exceed height requirements. Therefore, the projects would not affect air traffic patterns or introduce new safety hazards related to air traffic.</u>				
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>The proposed projects will be designed to meet City design standards and, therefore, would meet existing levels of safety.</u>				
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Construction of the proposed projects would temporarily affect traffic circulation within the project boundary. However, an approved Traffic Control Plan would be implemented during construction so that there would be adequate emergency access.

- 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?

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The proposed projects are consistent with community plan designations and underlying zoning and would not result in any conflicts regarding policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

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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,

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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 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 Iipay 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 the San Diego River, 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?

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

- 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?

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Please see XVII a. The construction of new water or wastewater facilities would not be required.

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>The proposed projects would not result in expanded impervious surface area and would not result in substantial quantities of runoff which would require new or expanded treatment facilities. Therefore, the proposed projects would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.</u>				
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>The proposed projects would not require the use of any permanent water source and, therefore, would not impact existing water supplies.</u>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>The proposed projects would not generate wastewater and, therefore, would not impact an existing wastewater treatment provider.</u>				
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Construction of the proposed projects would generate waste associated with construction activities. This waste would be disposed of in conformance with all applicable local and state regulations pertaining to solid waste including permitting capacity of the landfill serving the project area. Materials able to be recycled shall be done to local standards regulating such activity. Operation of the proposed projects would generate minimal solid waste and, therefore, would not affect the permitted capacity of the landfill serving the project areas.</u>				

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulation related to solid waste?

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The proposed projects would not generate solid waste and, therefore, would not affect solid waste statutes and regulations. Any solid waste generated during construction related activities would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

XVIV. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE –

- 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, reduce 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?

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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 and the San Diego River) extend into San Diego Bay. As such, Tribal Consultation was conducted in accordance with AB52 which concluded that the trenching 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.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a

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Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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 the effects of other projects in the area, construction trenching within the UUDs has the potential to impact archaeological and tribal cultural resources which could incrementally contribute to a cumulative loss of non-renewable resources. However, with implementation of the MMRP identified in Section V of the MND, this incremental impact would be reduced to below a level of significance.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

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As proposed, the utility projects do not have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

REFERENCES

I. AESTHETICS / NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

- ☒ City of San Diego General Plan.
- ☐ Community Plan.
- ☐ Local Coastal Plan.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES & FOREST RESOURCES

- ☒ City of San Diego General Plan.
- ☒ U.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:

III. AIR QUALITY

- ☐ California Clean Air Act Guidelines (Indirect Source Control Programs) 1990.
- ☐ Regional Air Quality Strategies (RAQS) APCD.
- ☐ Site Specific Report:

IV. 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" Maps, 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 Federally-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 Report: Biological Letter Report for UU908 Block 3DD Underground Utility District Project, City of San Diego, California, March 2018.

V. 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:
- ☒ Site Specific Report: Record Search and Literature review by qualified City archaeological staff (September/October 2016, updated May 2018 and October 2018); Tribal Consultation (May 2017)

VI. GEOLOGY/SOILS

- ☒ City of San Diego Seismic Safety Study, 2008.
- ☒ 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>.

- X State of California Department of Conservation, Fault Activity Map of California (2010).
 _____ Site Specific Reports:
- VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**
 X City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist, July 2016.
 X City of San Diego General Plan.
 X City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Consistency Regulations.
- VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**
 X 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**
 X 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, http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists.html.
 _____ Site Specific Report:
- X. LAND USE AND PLANNING**
 X City of San Diego General Plan.
 X Community Plan.
 X Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
 X City of San Diego Zoning Maps
 _____ FAA Determination
- XI. MINERAL RESOURCES**
 _____ 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**
 X City of San Diego General Plan.
 X 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

X City of San Diego Paleontological Guidelines.

___ Deméré, Thomas A., and Stephen L. Walsh, "Paleontological Resources City of San Diego," Department of Paleontology San Diego Natural History Museum, 1996.

X 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," California Division of Mines and Geology Bulletin 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:

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

X City of San Diego General Plan.

X 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.

X City of San Diego Archaeology Library.

___ Historical Resources Board List

X Site Specific Report: Record Search and Literature review by qualified City archaeological staff (September/October 2016, updated May 2017 and October 2018); Tribal Consultation (May 2017,)

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: