



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 13, 2016

TO: Helene Deisher, Development Project Manager II, Development Services Department (DSD)

FROM: Catherine Rom, Senior Planner, Transportation & Storm Water Department

SUBJECT: Lower Chollas Creek Emergency Channel Maintenance (Maps 91 & 93) – Subsequent Substantial Conformance Review (SCR) Application

REFERENCE: PTS No. 293004 – Cycle 5 Resubmittal
PTS No. 228734 – Lower Chollas Creek Emergency CEQA NOE

The Transportation & Storm Water Department (T&SWD) is resubmitting a Subsequent SCR application for emergency maintenance within Chollas Creek. Emergency maintenance activities began on January 4, 2011 and were completed by April 25, 2011. Notification of the emergency maintenance was provided to DSD on December 27, 2010, with an application for an Emergency SDP, pursuant to Section 143.0126(a) of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) provisions of the Municipal Code.

Background

DSD certified a Statutory Notice of Exemption (NOE), pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15269–Emergency Projects. In addition, the T&SWD notified all the Regulatory Agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) who have jurisdiction over wetland and biological resources. The work was completed under Regional General Permit (RGP) 63 in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The SDRWQCB issued a 401 Certification. The CDFW was notified of the emergency maintenance but did not respond. As a result, the permit was approved by operation of law.

Location

The emergency maintenance is located in the Chollas Creek Channel between Webster Avenue to the north and Logan Avenue to the south, referenced by Maps 91 and 93 of the MMP, within the Southeastern San Diego Community of the City of San Diego, Council District 8, Pueblo San Diego Hydrologic Unit.

The cement-lined channel is trapezoidal in shape throughout its entire length, and extends 2,680 linear feet subject to tidal exchange. The channel conveys runoff from I-15 and the surrounding residential and industrial areas.

Emergency Maintenance Description

Emergency maintenance activities began on January 4, 2011 and were completed by April 25, 2011. Maintenance activities cleared 2,680 linear feet (53,600 square feet) of trash/debris, vegetation, and silt. A total of 17,662 tons of debris was removed consisting of 70% silt; 5% trash; and 25% vegetation. The emergency maintenance restored the original conveyance capacity of the flood control channel to protect public safety and property from flooding. The maintenance did not include any modifications that changed the character, scope, or size of the original fill design and did not increase the conveyance capacity of the channel beyond its as-built condition.

The maintenance method involved installing a temporary dam upstream of the maintenance area. Water was transported around the work area by portable pumps. Once water was pumped out, dozers entered the draining facility from an existing paved and temporary access ramp. Dozers were used to push accumulated material within the drainage facility to a central site near the access ramp where it was scooped and loaded on to a dump truck to be transported to an approved offsite disposal location. Maintenance activities did not require stockpiles or storage of spoils.

Environmentally Sensitive Land (ESL) Impact

Based on a biological survey conducted by HELIX on October 5 and 12, 2010, it was estimated the emergency maintenance would impact a total of 1.29 acre of wetland vegetation which qualifies as ESL. Mitigation for these impacts will be determined in consultation with the City.

Master Maintenance Program Documentation

Although the emergency work occurred before the adoption of the City's Master Storm Water System Master Plan (MMP), DSD has indicated the Subsequent SDP review should be processed in accordance with the SCR requirements of the MMP, and under the provisions of the Master Site SDP that was issued for the MMP. However, as an emergency maintenance project, sufficient time was not available to prepare all of the formal individual assessments identified in the SCR process.

Should you have any comments or questions, please contact me at 619-527-7471 or crom@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,



Catherine Rom
Senior Planner

Enclosures: Subsequent SCR Resubmittal Package