



**Date of Notice:** October 3, 2019

# **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** Ruffin and Sandrock Canyons Palm Removal and Restoration

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Mission Valley and Serra Mesa

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** District 7

**LOCATION:** Ruffin and Sandrock Canyons (Ruffin Canyon Open Space) and SDG&E Property (APN 42-915-001).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Right of Entry permit for San Diego Canyonlands for the removal of approximately 600 exotic palms from Ruffin and Sandrock Canyons (Ruffin Canyon Open Space). Work includes dropping of palms in the Open Space with hand-held equipment prior to removal by helicopter to the drop zone on SDG&E property. At the drop zones, palms will be cut up into dumpsters and properly disposed of. Temporary "trail closure" signage will be installed at trailheads ahead of and during helicopter operations, and will be removed within a week after helicopter operations are completed. Per grant requirements, a permanent sign will be installed at a trailhead acknowledging the California Prop 1 funding source. Way-finding signage may also be installed if approved by the City and funded. Restoration of areas will include 5.989 acres of restoration plus 11.783 acres of enhancement for a total project area of 17.772 acres. Restoration activities will include collection of native seed and cuttings as appropriate from willows, mulefat, and/or cactus and as approved by the City's Parks and Recreation Department Contact to further native plant coverage in restoration areas. San Diego Canyonlands will follow City Standards for Restoration during the bird nesting season and will implement erosion control best management practices (BMPs). San Diego Canyonlands will also be permitted to host volunteer events.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This activity is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources), Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), and Section 15311(a) (Accessory Structures).

**ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** City of San Diego Mayor-Appointed Designee.

**STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The City of San Diego conducted an environmental review that determined the project would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes; Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; and Section 15311(a) (Accessory Structures) which consists of construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities including on-premises signs. The exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would not apply in that no cumulative impacts were identified; no significant effects on the environment were identified; the project is not adjacent to a scenic highway; no historical resources would be affected by the action; and the project was not identified on a list of hazardous waste sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Laura Ball, Project Officer II

**MAILING ADDRESS:** City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space Division  
202 C Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, MS 5D, San Diego, CA 92101

**PHONE NUMBER:** (619) 685-1302

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On October 3, 2019, the City of San Diego made the above-referenced environmental determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This determination is appealable to the City Council. If you have any questions about this determination, contact the City Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal the CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed in the office of the City Clerk within 10 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**October 17, 2019**). The appeal application can be obtained from the City Clerk, 202 'C' Street, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101.

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

**POSTED IN THE OFFICE OF DSD**

**POSTED: 10/3/2019**

**REMOVED: \_\_\_\_\_**

**POSTED: E. Pascual**