



Date of Notice: September 27, 2019

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

## ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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**PROJECT NAME/NUMBER:** South Chollas Invasive Removal / Project #644364

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS:** Barrio Logan and Southeastern San Diego

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 8, 9

**LOCATIONS:** Chollas Creek and South Chollas Creek

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Mayoral Approval to allow for the removal of invasive species, trash and debris from several reaches of Chollas Creek and South Chollas Creek to benefit the overall habitat quality within the creeks and increase visibility within and surrounding the channel corridor. Chollas Creek invasive species removal areas include: (1) channel located between 3316-3356 National Avenue, on either side of the National Avenue bridge and (2) channel located between 715 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street and 566 South 36<sup>th</sup> Street. South Chollas Creek invasive species removal areas include: (1) channel located between 1533-1605 Rigel Street, (2) channel located at 3600 1/3 Beta Street within the Southcrest Trails Park, (3) channel bank located south of 3759 Acacia Grove Way, (4) channel located south of 3922 Z Street and north of Southcrest Recreation Center, and (5) channel located between National Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard, which is south of San Miguel Avenue and north of South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. It is anticipated that work would take place in Fall 2019, after the end of the bird nesting season (September 15). After the initial round of invasive removal, quarterly follow-up maintenance would take place to remove any resprouts. Quarterly maintenance would be conducted for up to two years following the initial round of removal. Two methods would be used for removing invasive species: (1) flush cut (with herbicide treatment as appropriate) and (2) trim to three feet (with herbicide treatment as appropriate). The soil and roots would not be disturbed. Minor trimming of native plants may be needed to allow access. Any trimming of native plants would be overseen by a qualified biologist to ensure there would be no impacts to the health of the plant. The total size of the invasive species removal area is 1.16 acres.

Implementation of the project to remove invasive plants is expected to occur over a 30-day period. The proposed work areas will be accessed by foot. All work would be completed by hand using mechanized and non-mechanized hand tools (e.g. chainsaws, loppers). Cut vegetation would be placed in bags, hand carried out of the channel and loaded into dump trucks for disposal at the landfill or greenery as appropriate. A Gradall may be used to lift bags of cut vegetation out of the channel and place them in the dump trucks. Gradalls and dump trucks will be staged outside of the channel - either on the street or in the designated upland staging areas. All staging areas would be on previously developed or disturbed land at the following locations: (1) adjacent to 3356 National Avenue and the channel, (2) along South 35<sup>th</sup> Street and adjacent to the channel, south of 715 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street, (3) southwest of 566 South 36<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Martine Avenue, (4) along Rigel Street, south of 1531 Rigel Street, (5) along the road where Beta Street and Birch Street meet, (6) along South 40<sup>th</sup> Street, south of 4007 Boston Avenue, (7) adjacent to the channel north of the Southcrest Recreation Center's basketball court, (8) along National Avenue

adjacent to 4166 National Avenue, (7) along the cul-de-sac adjacent to 4260 Logan Avenue, and (8) along Ocean View Boulevard, east of 4202 Ocean View Boulevard. The dump trucks and Gradall will not enter the channel. Equipment (dump trucks and Gradall) and removed vegetation will not be stored in the staging areas overnight.

Based on information provided in a Biological Resources Memorandum prepared by Balk Biological (June 2019), the proposed project would potentially impact 1.16 acres, including 0.23 acre of disturbed wetland (Arundo-dominated), 0.05 acre of disturbed wetland (Arundo-dominated; concrete-lined), 0.02 acre of disturbed wetland (castor bean-dominated), 0.27 acre of ornamental plantings, and temporarily impact 0.59 acre of urban/developed land. If the project occurs during the bird nesting season (January 15 – September 15) nesting bird surveys would be conducted prior to work. If active nests are identified, the project biologist will identify the appropriate measures (such as work setbacks or to postpone work) to ensure the nests are not impacted. Work proposed would impact invasive species only and full-time biological monitoring would be implemented during work to ensure avoidance of existing special-status plants and adjacent sensitive vegetation communities, including wetlands. Therefore, no impacts would occur to environmentally sensitive lands.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

**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, and Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), which allows for minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

The project does not trigger any of the exceptions to the exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 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:** Helene Deisher, DPM II  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** Development Services Department  
1222 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, MS 301  
San Diego, CA 92101  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (619) 446-5223

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On September 27, 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 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 11, 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:** September 27, 2019

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

**POSTED:** M. Hermann