



Date of Notice: June 18, 2020

# NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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**PROJECT NAME:** Balboa Park Tree and Garden Stewards Program

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Balboa Park

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** District 3

**LOCATION:** City-owned real property within Balboa Park

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Right of Entry Permit to allow Balboa Park Conservancy (Permittee) to assist the City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department (City) with tree and garden maintenance within Balboa Park (Permit Area). Permittee will provide funding, administration and oversight for each Activity. Permittee will work with the City to provide guidance to volunteers and contractors in the areas of general landscape and garden maintenance, pruning, planting, weeding, mulching, basic irrigation improvements (lateral lines, bubblers, drip lines, spray heads, and similar), path/trail maintenance, brush management, trash and debris removal. Activities occurring under this permit are not permitted within Multiple-Habitat Planning Areas (MHPA) of the Permit Area.

"Garden Steward volunteers" will be trained volunteers that will work within the various gardens of the Permit Area to support City staff with weeding, planting, mulching, pruning, deadheading, etc. Garden Steward volunteers will complete eight hours of a garden steward training curriculum developed collaboratively between the City and Permittee. Garden Steward volunteers will work within the gardens of the Permit Area during the week, when City staff and/or Permittee is available to assist and oversee work.

"Tree Steward volunteers" will be trained volunteers that will monitor and provide basic maintenance to young trees throughout the Permit Area. Tree Steward volunteers will receive training from local nonprofit Tree San Diego and Permittee to observe issues on trees such as vandalism, maintenance needs, pests, etc. and report it to City contact. A select group of Tree Steward volunteers who are trained in planting trees ("Specialized Tree Steward volunteers") will also support City staff by providing tree maintenance activities throughout the Permit Area, including the replacement of trees, hand weeding within tree wells, creating or recreating tree berms, mulching within tree wells, hand watering trees, staking or removing stakes, etc. Specialized Tree Steward volunteers will be supervised by Permittee to ensure volunteer safety and accuracy of maintenance when such volunteers are addressing tree maintenance.

In addition to volunteer based activities, a contractor or sub-contractor may be hired by the Permittee to complete basic grounds maintenance Activities within the Permit Area. Work may include path/trail maintenance and repair, soil enhancement and management, landscape installation, including plant material, ground covers, and accents, mulch spreading, brush management, trash and debris removal, and basic irrigation work, including installation and repair of lateral lines, bubblers, drip lines, spray heads, and similar.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This activity is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections\ 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15304 (b) (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 allows 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 (b) (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 including but not limited to new gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire-resistant landscaping; and where 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.

**CITY CONTACT:** Magen Shaw, Horticulturist

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 2125 Park Blvd, MS 39, San Diego, CA 92101

**PHONE NUMBER:** 619-235-1114

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On June 18, 2020, 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 Contact/Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed with the Office of the Clerk within 10 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**July 2, 2020**). During the Statewide "Safer-at-Home" directive to reduce the spread of COVID-19, beginning March 19, 2020, appeals to the City Clerk must be filed by email or US Mail as follows:

1. **Appeals filed via Email:** Send the appeal by email to [Hearings1@sanidiego.gov](mailto:Hearings1@sanidiego.gov); your email appeal will be acknowledged within 24 hours. You must separately mail the required appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Tara Ash-Reynolds, 9485 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123**. The appeal filing fee must be postmarked within 5 business days of the date the appeal is filed.
2. **Appeals filed via US Mail:** Send the appeal by US Mail to **City Clerk/Appeal, MS 2A, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**. Appeals filed by US Mail must have a United States Postal Service (USPS) postmark by the appeal deadline to be considered valid. You must separately mail the required appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Tara Ash-Reynolds, 9485 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123**. The appeal filing fee must be postmarked within 5 business days of the date the appeal is filed.

If you have any questions regarding the procedures to file the appeal, please contact **Tara Ash-Reynolds** at [tashreynolds@sanidiego.gov](mailto:tashreynolds@sanidiego.gov).

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

**POSTED IN THE OFFICE OF DSD**

**POSTED: 6/18/2020**

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

**POSTED: T. Ash-Reynolds**