



Date of Notice: October 30, 2020

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER: Group 170912-S Underground Utility Districts Project No. 647965
COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS: Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Mid-City: Normal Heights, North Park, Skyline-Paradise Hills, Clairemont Mesa, Mid-City: Eastern Area, College Area, Navajo, Otay Mesa-Nestor
COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9

LOCATIONS: 1) **UU980 Residential Project Block 2S4** (Mission Beach), 2) **UU315 Residential Project Block 2V1** (Pacific Beach), 3) **UU910 Residential Project Block 3BB1** (Mid-City: Normal Heights), 4) **UU911 Residential Project Block 3Y** (North Park), 5) **UU790 Residential Project Block 4Y2** (Skyline-Paradise Hills), 6) **UU878 Residential Project Block 6B** (Clairemont Mesa), 7) **UU879 Residential Project Block 6B1** (Clairemont Mesa), 8) **UU243 Residential Project Block 6L** (Clairemont Mesa), 9) **UU937 Residential Project Block 7E1** (Mid-City: Eastern Area), 10) **UU947 Residential Project Block 7L1** (College Area), 11) **UU700 Residential Project Block 7Q** (Navajo), 12) **UU314 Residential Project Block 8S** (Otay Mesa-Nestor).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL to prioritize and form twelve (12) Underground Utility Districts which would allow the construction of an Underground Utility System per the City's franchise agreement. The districts would also create an overlay that 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. The project would consist of trenching approximately 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet wide along one side of the public right-of-way, installing conduit and substructures such as electric transformer boxes and telecommunication pedestals, installing cable through the conduits, backfilling, removing existing overhead utility lines and poles, and installing new streetlights where applicable. 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. Streetlights, utility poles (if needed), transformer boxes and pedestals will be installed in the public right of way or a utility easement. Locations of the new equipment will be determined during utility system design and a community forum will be held to allow residents to provide input on final designs. In most cases, boxes and pedestals can be placed without requiring the removal of an existing tree. Trenching or boring work that could impact existing trees will be done in consultation with the City Arborist.

Individual customer connections will be made by boring laterally underground from the main line in the right of way to the front of the structure to install conduit and cable. If lateral boring is not feasible, open trenches approximately three feet deep and two feet wide will be dug and surfaces restored to pre-existing conditions when work is complete. Some properties may require electric service panel upgrades and/or installation of conduit and a junction box on the exterior of the building.

After utilities are undergrounded, street trees may be installed 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 would 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. 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. Traffic control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction. Any street tree removal, relocation, and/or trimming would be done under the supervision of the City Arborist. The street light locations are within urban developed areas, no sensitive vegetation would be affected or removed, and historic sidewalk stamps would be preserved per contract specifications. The district locations are not included on any government code listing of hazardous waste sites.

ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL: City of San Diego

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(D) (Replacement or Reconstruction)

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 §15302(d) [Replacement OR Reconstruction], which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, including the conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground when the surface is restored to the existing condition, and where the new structure will be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity; and where the exceptions listed in CEQA 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 after review of EnviroStor and GeoTracker websites the project was not identified on a list of hazardous waste sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

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On October 30, 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 Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal CEQA determinations 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 (**November 16, 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 E-mail: Send the appeal by email to Hearings1@sandiego.gov; your email appeal will be acknowledged within 24 hours. The [appeal application can be obtained here](#). You must separately mail the appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Myra Herrmann, 9485 Aero Drive, M.S. 413, 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. The [appeal application can be obtained here](#). You must separately mail the required appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Myra Herrmann, 9485 Aero Drive, M.S. 413, 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 **Myra Herrmann** at MHerrmann@sandiego.gov.

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

POSTED ON THE CITY'S CEQA WEBSITE

POSTED: October 30, 2020

REMOVED: _____

POSTED: M. Herrmann