



**Date of Notice:** March 3, 2021

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

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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**PROJECT NAME:** Park Boulevard Bikeway Project

**COMMUNITY PLAN AREA:** Balboa Park

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** District 3

**LOCATION:** Park Boulevard, from Upas Street to Presidents Way, San Diego, CA 92101. See the attached Figure 1.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project will repurpose the existing public right-of-way on Park Boulevard from Upas Street to Presidents Way to implement bicycle and transit corridor improvements. The proposed improvements include restriping the two existing southbound lanes to create one lane for automobiles and one dedicated bus lane that will be shared with bicyclists. The project will also restripe the two existing northbound lanes to include one lane for automobiles, one dedicated bus lane, and a Class II bicycle facility. The project will result in the removal of some on-street parking on the east side of Park Boulevard. The proposed improvements will be constructed after the implementation of the Balboa Park Pipeline Replacement, Phase II project.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This activity is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) (Existing Facilities) and Section 15304(h) (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 CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) (Existing Facilities) and Section 15304(h) (Minor Alterations to Land). CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) (Existing Facilities) exempts 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, including existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus

lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes. CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(h) (Minor Alterations to Land) exempts 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, and which include the creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.

The project meets the criteria of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c) and 15304(h) because it is located in an existing public right-of-way, it does not involve the removal of any trees, and the repurposing of the existing street to include dedicated bus lanes and improved bicycle facilities would not expand the existing use of the road such that it would cause a physical direct and/or indirect impact on the environment. Park Boulevard is serviced by MTS Routes No. 7 and 215 and has high pedestrian and bicycle activity. Although the project would result in the loss of some street parking along Park Boulevard, there are over seven (7) parking lots and thousands of off-street spaces near and/or adjacent to the project area which have available capacity to accommodate the parking lost due to the project. Thus, the removal of some street parking along Park Boulevard is not anticipated to result in a significant increase in vehicle travel that would result from vehicles seeking parking in the area and would not result in a physical impact on the environment.

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 wastes sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. The project is in an existing public right-of-way and involves restriping the existing roadway to include dedicated bus lanes and improved bicycle facilities, thus the project would not impact any sensitive biological, historical, or cultural resources. The project would not cause a significant effect on the environment and would not combine with the effects of other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects to result in a cumulative impact as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15355. The project is located approximately 450 meters away from an officially designated State Scenic Highway (State Route 163) and improvements associated with the project would not result in damage to a scenic highway. Additionally, there are no hazardous waste sites located on Park Boulevard, therefore the project would not affect any hazardous waste sites identified under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**CITY CONTACT:** Everett Hauser, Program Manager

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Transportation & Storm Water Department, 8050 Othello Ave., San Diego, CA 92111

**PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL:** (619) 533-3012 / [ERHauser@sandiego.gov](mailto:ERHauser@sandiego.gov)

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On March 3, 2021, the City of San Diego made the above-referenced environmental determination pursuant to CEQA. This determination is appealable to the City Council. If you have any questions about this determination, contact the City Contact listed above.

Applications to appeal the CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed with the Office of the Clerk within 5 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**March 10, 2021**). 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@sandiego.gov](mailto:Hearings1@sandiego.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: Elena Pascual, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 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. You must separately mail the required appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Elena Pascual, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 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 **Elena Pascual** at [EPascual@sandiego.gov](mailto:EPascual@sandiego.gov).

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

**POSTED: 3/3/2021**

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

**POSTED: E. Pascual**

**Figure 1: Project Area**  
Park Boulevard from Upas  
Street to Presidents Way

