



Date of Notice: October 18, 2022

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER: Ruffin and Sandroock Canyon Palm Removal and Restoration Phase II

COMMUNITY PLAN AREA: Serra Mesa

COUNCIL DISTRICT: District 7

LOCATION: Ruffin and Sandroock Canyons (Ruffin Canyon Open Space), Ruffin Road South of Gramercy Drive, and Taft Middle School 9191 Gramercy Dr, San Diego, CA, 92123, USA (See attachment Ruffin Ph2_Exhibit Map)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Right of Entry permit for San Diego Canyonlands for the removal of approximately 275 exotic palms from Ruffin and Sandroock Canyons (Ruffin Canyon Open Space), License Agreement, and any subsequent actions needed to complete the project between the City and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Phase II of this project will occur outside of the bird breeding season and is anticipated to be from Dec. 19 to Jan. 1. Work includes dropping of palms in the Open Space with hand-held equipment prior to removal by helicopter to the drop zone on Taft Middle School (SDUSD) property. Refueling of the helicopter and chain chocker attachment procedures would occur in streets rights-of-way for Ruffin Road south of Gramercy Drive. Palms will be cut up into dumpsters at the drop zone 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's and funded. The restoration efforts under Phase I will continue and include 5.989 acres of restoration plus 11.783 acres of enhancement for a total project area of 17.772 acres by the completion of Phase II. Restoration activities will consist of collecting native seeds and cuttings as appropriate from willows, mulefat, and/or cacti 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, 5th Floor, MS 5D, San Diego, CA 92101

PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL: 619) 685-1302/lball@sandiego.gov

On October 18, 2022, 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 (**October 25, 2022**). Per the revised Public Notice issued by the Office of the City Clerk on September 28, 2021, appeals to the City Clerk must be filed via e-mail or in-person as follows:

1. Appeals filed via Email: Send the appeal by email to 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: Greg Johansen], 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 In-Person: The appeal application can be obtained in the Lobby of the City Administration Building located at 202 'C' Street, San Diego, CA 92101. The completed appeal

package must include the required appeal fee in the form of a check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Greg Johansen, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92123.**

If you have any questions regarding the procedures to file the appeal, please contact **Greg Johansen** at **gjohansen@sanidiego.gov**. The revised Public Notice can be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/office_of_the_city_clerk_public_notice_rev09252020_v2.pdf.

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

POSTED ON THE CITY'S CEQA WEBSITE

POSTED: __10/18/2022__

REMOVED: _____

POSTED: GJohansen