



**CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and
NOTICE OF APPROVAL**

Project: Electrical Switch Replacement by San Diego Gas and Electric at Harbor Island
Location: Spanish Landing Parking Lot, 3900 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: 007-001
Project No.: 2020-113
Applicant: Emily Newcomer, Team Lead, SDG&E, 8316 Century Park Court, CP51B, San Diego, CA 92123
Date Approved: Dec 15, 2020

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve replacement of an existing electrical switch and installation of associated equipment by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) in the City of San Diego, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve removal of an existing four (4)-way manual Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) switch, trenching of approximately ten (10) feet (ft)-long by eighteen (18)-inches wide by three (3) ft-deep for installation of fiber optic cable, installation of SCADA antenna to increase existing SCADA communication pole by one (1)-ft from existing conditions, construction of a one-ft. by eight (8)-ft. concrete pad, installation of new SCADA switch, and restoration of landscaping to existing condition after construction of the improvements. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in Winter 2020 and would take approximately one month to complete. The project would also include SDG&E crew truck parking within North Harbor Drive right-of-way which will be performed in one night in accordance with the project-specific Traffic Control Plan.

Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips and would require limited use of equipment. Therefore, significant impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic are not anticipated to occur. Furthermore, the Applicant/ would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding construction demolition debris, hazards and hazardous materials, and stormwater.

The following categorical determinations are based on the project submittal and all project information known to the District as of the date of this determination.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exemptions: SG §15301, Class 1/Section 3.a: Existing Facilities; SG §15302, Class 2/Section 3.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and SG §15304, Class 4/Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land

3.a. Existing Facilities (SG § 15301) (Class 1): Includes operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

- (7) Existing facilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility service.

AND/OR

3.b. Replacement or Reconstruction (SG § 15302) (Class 2): Includes replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced.

AND/OR

3.d. Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4): Includes minor alterations in the condition of

land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, but not limited to:

- (7) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorical Exempt pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines and the Sections of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of replacement of an existing electrical switch and installation of associated equipment, would not result in a significant cumulative impact due to the continuation of the existing use, would consist of the replacement of an existing facility, would be located on the same site as the facility replaced, would have substantially the same purpose and capacity, would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees. The District has determined none of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062, a 35-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply from the date a Notice of Exemption is posted with the San Diego County Clerk, or a 180-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply if no Notice of Exemption is filed.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY

Planning District: 2 - Harbor Island/Lindbergh Field (Precise Plan Figure 9)

Land Use Designation: Park/Plaza

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve replacement of an existing electrical switch and installation of associated equipment, consistent with the existing certified Land use designation. The proposed project would not change the use of the site nor would it interrupt or expand the existing conforming use of the site.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exclusions: Section 8.a: Existing Facilities; Section 8.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and Section 8.d: Minor Alterations to Land

8.a. Existing Facilities: The operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

- (2) Public and private utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewer, or other utility services

AND/OR

8.b. Replacement or Reconstruction: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located essentially on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

- (2) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity

AND/OR

8.d. Minor Alterations to Land: Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, including but not limited to:

- (6) Minor trenching or backfilling where the surface is restored

The proposed project is determined to be Categorical Excluded pursuant to the Sections of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of replacement of an existing electrical switch and installation of associated equipment, would involve negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would be located essentially on the same site as the structure replaced, would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees.

Pursuant to California Coastal Act Section 30717, there is a 10-working-day period to appeal this "Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion" to the California Coastal Commission.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

The proposed project complies with Section 87.(a)(4) of the Port Act, which allows for the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of highways, streets, roadways, bridges, belt line railroads, parking facilities, power, telephone, telegraph or cable lines or landings, water and gas pipelines, and all other transportation and utility facilities or betterments incidental, necessary, or convenient for the promotion and accommodation of any of the uses set forth in this section. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed project is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

RANDA CONIGLIO
President/CEO

Determination by:
Michael Paul
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Signature: Michael Paul
Date: Dec 15, 2020

Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Chris Burt
Date: Dec 15, 2020