



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

Project: Utility Investigation by San Diego County Regional Airport Authority at North Harbor Drive
Location: North Harbor Drive between Liberator Way and Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: 506-004
Project No.: 2021-025
Applicant: Joshua Gilbreath, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, 3225 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101
Date Approved: Apr 5, 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve investigation of existing utility lines by the San Diego Regional Airport Authority (Applicant) in the City of San Diego, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve vacuum excavation at approximately 16 sites on North Harbor Drive. The proposed project would be completed during the night, with up to a single lane of traffic closed to accommodate the work, as necessary. Following completion of the investigatory work, the Applicant would return the site to its original condition. The proposed project is anticipated to occur early 2021 and would take approximately one week to complete.

Due to its nature and limited scope, the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips and would require limited use of equipment. 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 §15304, Class 4/Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land; and/or SG §15306, Class 6/Section 3.f: Information Collection

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.

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.

AND/OR

3.f. Information Collection (SG § 15306) (Class 6): Includes basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which has not yet been approved, adopted or funded.

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. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it would consist of temporary investigatory work for the locating of existing utility lines that would not involve an expansion of use beyond that previously existing or the removal of mature, scenic trees, and would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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: Streets

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would consist of temporary investigatory work for the locating of existing utility lines 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 uses of the site.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exclusions: Section 8.a: Existing Facilities; Section 8.d: Minor Alterations to Land; and/or Section 8.e: Information Collection

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.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.

AND/OR

8.e. Information Collection: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major significant disturbance to an environmental resource.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorical Excluded pursuant to the Sections of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above. This is appropriate for the proposed project because it would consist of temporary investigatory work for the locating of existing utility lines that would not involve an expansion of use beyond that previously existing or the removal of mature, scenic trees, and would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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 Section 87. 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.

J. STUYVESANT
President/CEO

Determination by:
Cameron McLeod
Associate Planner
Development Services

Signature: Cameron McLeod
Date: Apr 5, 2021

Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Chris Burt
Date: Mar 30, 2021