



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

Project: Improvements to Existing Conduits on Harbor Drive by San Diego Gas & Electric  
Location: Harbor Drive and Switzer Street, San Diego, CA, 92101  
Parcel No.: Various  
Project No.: 2023-086  
Applicant: Jin Kim, Permit Service Specialist II, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, 8680 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123; (619) 676-1146  
Date Approved: 07/18/2023

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would involve improvements to existing conduits and the installation of small new equipment along Harbor Drive by San Diego Gas & Electric (Applicant) in the city of San Diego, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve intercepting three (3) existing conduits along Harbor Drive near Switzer Street, installing a new conduit and cable at two (2) of the interception points, and installing a new conduit at the third interception point. The proposed project would involve relocating and improving the existing conduit and cable system along Harbor Drive to accommodate construction of the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Bayshore Bikeway project. The new conduit and cable at the two existing interception points would be installed by trenching an approximately 24" wide by 36" deep electrical trench. The estimate project footprint and soil disturbance of the trench would be approximately 330 square feet. Following completion of the proposed conduit and cable installation, all disturbed areas would be restored to its original condition and restriped, as needed. Equipment required to complete the proposed project would consist of six (6) personnel, three (3) work trucks, a backhoe, and an excavator. All worker vehicles would be staged accordingly within designated "working areas" as delineated in the City of San Diego Traffic Control Plan. Additionally, per the submitted Traffic Control Plan, flaggers are to be present on-site during construction of the proposed project to assist with rerouting of pedestrians or bikers, as needed. Driveway access shall not be blocked at any time during construction of the proposed project.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in approximately September 2023 and would take approximately five (5) days to complete, with ongoing maintenance as needed.

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, 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.

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**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

***CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION***

Categorical Exemptions: SG §15301, Class 1/Section 3.a: Existing Facilities; SG §15303, Class 3/Section 3.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; 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.c. New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (SG § 15303) (Class 3): Includes construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of existing small structures from one use to another with minor modifications to the exterior of the structure. Examples of this exemption include:

- (3) Water, sewer, electrical, gas, telephone, and other utility structures or facilities.

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 Categorically 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 would involve improvements to existing utilities which would involve no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would consist of construction and location of new, small structures, and would result in no permanent effects on the environment. 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: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)

Land Use Designation: Streets

The proposed project conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve improvements to existing utilities 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.c: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; 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.c. New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures: Construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small, new equipment and facilities, involving negligible or no change of existing use of the property, including but not limited to:

- (2) Water main, sewer, electrical, gas, or other utility extensions of reasonable length to serve such construction

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 Categorically 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 would involve improvements to existing utilities that would involve a negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would involve no change of existing use of the property, 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  
Acting President/CEO

Determination by:  
Lillian Mattes  
Assistant Planner  
Development Services

Signature: Lillian Mattes  
Date: 07/18/2023

Deputy/Assistant General Counsel

Signature: Shiraz D. Tangri  
Date: 07/18/2023