



CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS  
and  
NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Project: SCADA Copper Cable Removal Project on Harbor Drive by San Diego Gas & Electric  
Location: Multiple Points along Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101  
Parcel No.: 019-030 and 019-039  
Project No.: 2023-092  
Applicant: Jin Kim, Permit Service Specialist II, San Diego Gas & Electric, 8680 Balboa Ave, San Diego, CA 92134; (619) 676-1146  
Date Approved: 07/18/2023

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would involve the removal and replacement of existing facilities by San Diego Gas & Electric (Applicant) in the city of San Diego, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve the removal of abandoned copper cable at three (3) sites in downtown San Diego: (1) Intersection at Market Street and West Harbor Drive; (2) Eastbound travel lane at Front Street and West Harbor Drive; and (3) On Exposition Way near the San Diego Convention Center. To complete the proposed project, personnel would access the manholes or handholes at each site and pull the existing cable. If needed, a vacuum truck would be used to remove any standing water at the base of the access location. Once the cable is pulled, the interior of the access location would be cleaned, and the manhole or handhole covers would be replaced. No new cable would be installed as part of the proposed project.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in Summer 2023 and would take approximately four (4) days to complete, with ongoing maintenance as needed. All worker vehicles would be staged 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.

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 and SG §15302, Class 2/Section 3.b: Replacement or Reconstruction

- 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.

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 a negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing and would consist of the replacement of existing facilities. 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 the removal and replacement of existing facilities 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 and Section 8.b: Replacement or Reconstruction

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.

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 a negligible expansion of use beyond that existing and would involve the removal and replacement of existing facilities.

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