

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
San Diego, CA 92101

From:

San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101 [RESPONSIBLE AGENCY]

Project Applicant: San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title: Right of Entry Permit for Del Mar Bluffs Emergency Repair at MP 245.4 (“proposed project”).

Project Location: Torrey Pines State Beach, San Diego County.

Description of Specific Location, Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to secure the track bed in its existing alignment. A slide occurred approximately 0.2 mile north of the proposed project area on February 28, 2021 after an existing seawall collapsed. The seawall collapsed because of ongoing wave erosion the undercut the foundation of the seawall, causing the artificial fill the wall was securing to fall onto the beach below.

The proposed project area is very similar to the area that collapsed in February 2021. The proposed project area consists of an existing concrete seawall that was built over 100 years ago that secures approximately 20,000 CY of artificial fill. After the seawall at MP 245.2 collapsed, project engineers studied the seawall in the proposed project and determined that there is an imminent risk of failure until it can be stabilized. If left in its existing condition, there will be a significant risk to public safety due to the active and episodic nature of the bluffs. Amtrak’s Pacific Surfliner intercity passenger rail service through the proposed project area is the nation’s second busiest, serving six counties and 351 miles of the southern California coastline. In addition to Amtrak, this rail corridor is shared with COASTER commuter rail services and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Pacific Sun freight services.

A Right of Entry permit from the State of California is required for access to the proposed project area. The proposed project consists of installing 47 Cast-in-Drilled-Hole concrete piles in a row directly west of the existing seawall at MP 245.4 with a 2-foot wide slurry trench in between the existing wall and the piles. The 32-foot deep piles will be drilled into the ground and will be capped by a concrete grade beam. This concrete grade beam and a small portion of the piles may become visible if the beach sand is washed away in winter storms. The concrete will be colored to match the existing surroundings. This pile cut off wall will reinforce the existing seawall and protect the bottom of it from being undercut by wave-based erosion, which is what caused the seawall at MP 245.2 to collapse. Access through an existing State Parks parking lot, through an existing beach access road, and through State Park land is required to reach the proposed project area, which is located on land owned by the North County Transit District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Diego Association of Governments

Name of Public Agency Carrying out Project: San Diego Association of Governments

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption. State code number: 15269(b)(c)

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Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15269 of the Public Resources Code provides a Statutory Exemption from CEQA for several types of emergency projects:

- (b) Emergency repairs to publicly or privately-owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.
- (c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

The proposed project is required to protect the track bed of this section of the LOSSAN Corridor. Wave runup is undercutting the foundations of a 100-year-old seawall. A similar seawall located to the north less than 0.2 miles away failed in February 2021 and a similar failure is imminent at this location. An engineering evaluation (HNTB 2021) concluded that the Anderson Canyon seawall does not meet the minimum factor of safety of 1.5 for overturning (1.02) and sliding (0.98) and needs urgent repairs to avoid failure. The construction of a cut off wall in front of the existing seawall will stabilize the wall from being undermined by waves during high tides and storm surge. Without the proposed project, the existing seawall and bluff are susceptible to failure and constitutes a threat to public health and safety until it is reinforced.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Keith Greer

Area Code/Telephone: 619-699-7390

Signature: 

Hasan Ikhrata, Chief Executive Officer

10/12/2021
Date: _____

Signed by Responsible Agency