

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

(Address)

Project Title: San Diego Gas & Electric Company Natural Community Conservation Plan Bridge Amendment

Project Applicant: San Diego Gas & Electric Company

Project Location - Specific:

San Diego Gas & Electric Company service territory in San Diego and southern Orange

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: San Diego, Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attachment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Diego Gas and Electric Company

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

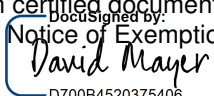
Reasons why project is exempt:

See attachment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Karen Drewe Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 310-387-9260

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 2/17/2022 Title: Env. Program Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



State of California – Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Coast Region

3883 Ruffin Road

San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 467-4201

www.wildlife.ca.gov*GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*

ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
San Diego Gas & Electric Company Natural Community Conservation Plan Bridge
Amendment

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has approved a small amendment, CDFW tracking no. 2835-1995-79-5-A1 (Bridge Amendment), to the San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E) Natural Community Conservation Plan, CDFW tracking no. 2835-1995-79-5 (NCCP), and the associated NCCP permit. SDGE requested the Bridge Amendment because it needs take coverage for its 2022 wildfire risk reduction activities. The Bridge Amendment allows SDG&E to impact an additional 20 acres of habitat from wildfire risk reduction activities provided SDGE complies with all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation requirements of their existing NCCP permit in implementing those activities. This Bridge Amendment provides SDG&E interim take coverage for its wildfire risk reduction activities while SDG&E and CDFW, in coordination with interested stakeholders, work on a broader amendment (Major Amendment), and associated review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that will provide a larger increase in the NCCP's take coverage while also strengthening the NCCP's avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures, leading to improved long-term conservation outcomes. The Bridge Amendment will benefit California residents and natural resources by permitting SDG&E to conduct activities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

CDFW approved the Bridge Amendment relying on the CEQA statutory exemption for specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. (Cal. Pub. Res. Code, § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269.) The Bridge Amendment falls within the class because the amendment will allow SDG&E to conduct important wildfire risk reduction activities ahead of and during the 2022 wildfire season. Delaying these activities would create a risk to public health, safety, and welfare through increased risk of catastrophic wildfire. The Bridge Amendment will allow SDG&E to conduct its wildfire risk reduction activities in the short term while SDG&E and CDFW, and other interested parties, work on a major, long-term amendment to the NCCP and associated environmental review.