

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Mail Stop: A-33
ARCC-Recorder
Attn: N. Bajrami, A. Torres, S. Tabbutt
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: Mail Stop: 029
County of San Diego,
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Crystal Benham
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

State Clearinghouse
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
P.O. Box 3044

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Tijuana River Valley Dredging Project

Project Location: The Smuggler's Gulch channel and the Pilot Channel of the Tijuana River within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 565-3600

Project Description: Removal of trash, sediment, and debris from the Smuggler's Gulch channel and Pilot Channel of the Tijuana River.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: 3/12/24

County Contact Person: Kiran Seibel

Telephone: 619-209-9922

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above described project on **3/12/24** and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption. C Section:
- Categorical Exemption. G Section(s):
- G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: The project includes the removal of sediment, trash, and debris from the Smuggler's Gulch channel and the Pilot Channel of the Tijuana River that accumulated as a result of the unprecedented storms beginning in January 2024 and led to flooding of private and public property. On January 23, 2024, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency in San Diego to support the recover from winter storms. The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA review per section 15269(a) of the CEQA guidelines. Specifically, the Governor's proclamation qualifies the project for CEQA Emergency Project: Sec. G 15269(a) – "Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code."

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: _____ Telephone: 619-539-4155

Name (Print): Crystal Benham Title: Chief, Resource Management Division

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.