



City of Del Mar

Planning and Community Development Department

1050 Camino Del Mar

Del Mar, CA 92014

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: State of California
Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 96812

FROM: City of Del Mar
Planning Department
1050 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014

County Clerk
County of San Diego
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title: Crest Canyon Undergrounding District X1A Project

Project Location: City of Del Mar- Along Crest Road from the border of the City of San Diego at the south and continues up through Crest Road to incorporate a portion of Avenida Primavera and Zuni Drive and ending at a dead-end portion of Serpentine Drive. The undergrounding also crosses east from Crest Road to Oribia Road and north to San Dieguito Drive. From San Dieguito Drive the undergrounding continues west adjacent to the San Dieguito Lagoon terminating at the Grand Avenue Overlook. The project extends to a portion of Hoska Drive to Hoska Lane intersection, on Amphitheater Drive to the driveway at 980 Crest Road, on Kalamath Drive to the first pole adjacent 1210 Crest Road, to pole at 1329 Via Alta, down to 615 15th Street, to pole at 521 Avenida Primavera, to pole at 660 Zuni Dr, and down Serpentine Drive to Forest Way intersection.

Location (County): County of San Diego

Project Description:

The project includes new publicly installed trenches, conduit, equipment pads, and retaining walls for the proposed electrical and telecom facilities within approximately 12,300 lineal feet of existing public right-of-way and private streets in the area. The project will also include homeowner installed trenches and conduit from meters at 85 houses out to the street right-of-way at locations where overhead services currently exist to the homes, as well as public and homeowner repairs to the surface improvements and replacement of vegetation disturbed during construction of the trench, pads, handholes, and retaining walls. The utility agency will

install equipment and wiring for the proposed electrical and telecom services and will remove all overhead wires and poles currently located within the Crest Canyon Undergrounding District. The majority of the work will occur within existing streets and driveways with some exceptions for equipment and walls adjacent to the paved areas, homeowner trenching through yards to existing meter locations, and overhead wire and pole removals for existing lines which cross through open space canyon and lagoon areas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Del Mar

Name of Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Del Mar, Planning and Community Development Department

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):

§15302(d) - Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction and §15304 - Class 4 Minor Alteration to Land

None of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption would apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2) and the project, including the minor alterations to land, has been designed to avoid sensitive environmental resources.

- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: N/A

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed project has been analyzed and determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(d) (Class 2) and 15304 (Class 4) in that the project includes the conversion of overhead electric utility distribution systems to underground and includes restoring the surface to the existing condition. It also requires minor alterations of land in five locations with low grading quantities and low retaining wall heights (4.3' maximum) in order to locate required above ground facilities for the undergrounded lines such as handholes, transformers, and pedestals. The proposed project has been sited and designed and will be constructed based on recommendations in a Cultural Resources Assessment titled "Cultural Resource Assessment for the Crest Canyon Undergrounding District X1A Project" prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. dated July 8, 2024, and a Biological Resources Letter Report prepared by Busby Biological Resources dated July 11, 2024, to avoid potential impacts to cultural resources and biological resources, respectively, as a result of the proposed activities (reports are on-file with the City of Del Mar, 1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014).

The Cultural Resource Assessment determined that no historical resources are present in the project area and the project is not expected to adversely impact any known cultural resource. The assessment concluded that although it is unlikely that resources are present in the majority of the project area, there is potential for buried archaeological resources to be present within deposits adjacent to the lagoon along San Dieguito Drive within the project site. Therefore, as part of the Environmental Contractor Commitments to be noted on the Final Construction Plan

Set, the project would implement an archeological and Native American monitoring program during any trenching or ground-disturbing work that occurs within this portion of the project along San Dieguito Drive, adjacent to the lagoon.

The Biological Letter Report found that the project has been designed to avoid significant direct and indirect effects on sensitive biological resources by siting the work to occur predominantly within and adjacent to developed areas (e.g., streets, driveways, and residential landscaped yards), with only minimal work within and adjacent to sensitive native habitats that may support sensitive biological resources (i.e., San Dieguito Lagoon, Crest Canyon Open Space, and other sensitive canyon areas). In addition to the incorporation of specific project design features to avoid sensitive resources, the project includes project-specific Environmental Contractor Commitments and BMPs to be noted on the Final Construction Plan Set and implemented during construction activities within and adjacent to sensitive native habitats. The combination of these features assures protection of sensitive resources and avoids significant adverse effects to sensitive biological resources in these areas, including natural vegetation/habitats, nesting birds, and protected trees.

With the project's recommended siting, design, BMPs, and contractor commitments, it has further been determined that none of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption would apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2) and the project has been designed to avoid significant impacts to sensitive environmental resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jennifer Gavin, Associate Planner
Lead Agency Phone Number: (858) 755-9313

Signature:  _____

Date: 10/8/2024 Title: Jennifer, Gavin Associate Planner

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____