



CITY OF ESCONDIDO
 PLANNING DIVISION
 201 NORTH BROADWAY
 ESCONDIDO, CA 92025-2798
 760-839-4671

Notice of Exemption

To: Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
 Attn: Fish and Wildlife Notices
 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 260
 San Diego, CA 92101
 MS: A-33

From: City of Escondido
 Planning Division
 201 North Broadway
 Escondido, CA 92025

Project Title/Case No: Creek Channel Fencing Project / PL24-0375

Project Location - Specific: On the northern and southern borders of the Escondido Creek, also known as the Harmony Grove Creek Bed. The area is generally bounded by Harmony Grove Road to the east, Citracado Parkway to the west, and a stretch of area including the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility, the Green Tree Mobile Homes Estates Mobile Home Park, and the Church of God properties in the City of Escondido to the south (Project location map is attached for reference).

Project Location - City: Escondido **Project Location - County:** San Diego

Description of Project:

Erect a total of 4,450-linear feet of 8-foot-high fence adjacent the Escondido Creek between Harmony Grove Road to the northeast and Citracado Parkway to the southwest ("Project"). The fence alignment would parallel both the northern and southern borders of the creek, directly adjacent an existing service road (to the south) and Escondido Creek Bike Trail (to the north), as well as a portion directly adjacent Citracado Pkwy. The Project would replace a previously improved chain-link fence in areas, and/or occur within previously disturbed and developed areas from prior and recent City projects. Anticipated ground disturbance for the Project would entail footings for the proposed fence/replacement fence up to 36-inches in depth and 12-inches in diameter.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Escondido

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Name: City of Escondido Development Services Department, Engineering Division

Address: 201 N. Broadway Escondido, CA 92025

Telephone: 760-214-4718

Private entity School district Local public Agency State agency Other special district

Exempt Status:

The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 15311 (Class 11 Accessory Structures). Specifically, the Project would entail replacement of a previously improved chain-link fence in applicable areas. According to the City's Fifth Annual Monitoring Report for the Escondido Creek (HARRF) Enhancement Project (Dudek, 2007), "the City had a chain-link fence with 'No Trespassing' signs installed around the entire project area." (p. 2). The project area referenced in the monitoring report is that of the Escondido Creek streambed behind the HARRF with the same boundary of Harmony Grove Rd to the northeast and Citracado Pky to the southwest. While a majority of the Project would replace existing fence in areas where previously disturbed, there is a portion of the Project that would entail new fence construction in previously disturbed areas, as shown in Figure 1. The Project entails only that of erecting the new fence which is an accessory structure. Therefore, the Project would qualify for both new construction of small structures (Class 3) and accessory structure (Class 11) exemptions.

The Project is also statutorily exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 (Emergency Projects) in that erection of 4,450-linear feet of 8-foot-high fence would replace existing fencing previously placed that ensures a publicly owned facility is maintained and repaired for the purposes of public health, safety, and welfare.

Further, the Project would not trigger any of the exceptions as outlined in Section 15300.2 as specified below:

- The Project location is that of the immediately adjacent areas which are previously disturbed and developed. The proposed alignment would occur outside of the Escondido Creek streambed, in areas previously disturbed and improved with a paved service roadway (to the south) and paved bike trail (to the north). According to the Conceptual Wetland Mitigation and Revegetation Plan for the HARRF (Dudek, 2000), the fence alignment immediately adjacent to the north and south of the creek is identified as “developed land” (Figure 3, p. 6). A portion of the proposed alignment would occur to the southwest of the creek area, on the eastern edge of Citracado Pky directly south of the recently finished Citracado bridge project. This portion of the Project alignment would occur in an area previously graded and disturbed by the Citracado bridge project. Due to the Project’s area of disturbance being contained to the already disturbed and previously developed areas adjacent and in the vicinity of the Escondido Creek, no location-related exception would apply.
- The Project would not have a cumulative impact over time in that the replacement in areas, and new installation in areas, of an 8-foot-high fence would not disturb areas already disturbed by prior projects conducted within the last 20-years. The fence material would be cut and climb resistant, which would limit the need for repair to the fence where holes may be cut if the material proposed was chain link. The intent of replacing/constructing the accessory structure is to limit the potential impacts to the creek from human activity such as illegal dumping, encampment, and other forms of polluting-activities. Therefore, no cumulative impacts would occur from the Project.
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- The Project would not impact any wildlife corridors, as the Project would not fully surround the existing creek. The streambed would remain unaltered by the Project and continued access and flow through the creek from north of Harmony Grove Rd and southward through Citracado Pky would remain. The Project would impede human access to the creek from the accessible pathways to the north, south, and southwest (Escondido Creek Bike Trail, HARRF service road, and Citracado Pky, respectively). Therefore, no significant effects from the Project would occur.
- The Project would not result in any damage to scenic highways as it is not located near or within a scenic highway pursuant to the CalTrans Scenic Highway System Map (2024). The nearest State designated scenic highway is located over 20-miles to the south (State Route-52). Therefore, no impacts to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources within an officially designated scenic highway would occur.
- The Project area is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, including the following:
 - List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database;
 - List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites from the State Water Board’s GeoTracker database;
 - List of solid waste disposal sites identified by Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit;
 - List of “active” CDO and CAO from Water Board; and
 - List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code, identifies by DTSC.
- The Project does not entail modification or any change to an existing historical resource, nor does it entail any changes to a structure or building that is eligible for consideration of a historical resource. The Project would entail installation of a new 8-foot-high fence in areas where an existing chain-link fence was previously improved, as well as an area where no chain-link fence previously existed but was previously disturbed by a prior City project within the last 2-years. No view sheds of existing or potential historical resources would be impacted, as the nearest historical resource to the Project site is located at 1555 South Hale Avenue, approximately 675-feet to the southeast of the nearest portion of the Project alignment.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 839-4548

Signature: 

[Veronica Morones]
[City Planner]

12/19/24
Date

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: 12/19/24

Signed by Applicant

Project Location Map



Figure 1
Proposed Fence Alignment

