



Date of Notice: December 23, 2016

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER: USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services (WS) for Predator Management at Mission Bay Least Tern Sites and Northern
Wildlife Preserve

COMMUNITY PLAN AREA: Mission Bay Park

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 2

LOCATION: Target areas within Mission Bay are Mariner's Point, Fiesta Island-North End and Stoney Point; Mariners Point, Kendall Frost and San Diego River, and the Northern Wildlife Preserve in North Mission Bay.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this program is to protect endangered California least terns (LETE) and their nests from predation at LETE nesting sites throughout Mission Bay. A secondary focus is to conduct predator management to protect a breeding population of light-footed Ridgeway's rails (LFRR) at the Northern Wildlife Preserve (NWP), located in north Mission Bay. Management activities will be conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS) personnel in consultation with the City, Parks and Recreation personnel, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the University of California San Diego Reserve System. WS personnel will provide direct control of predators and technical assistance in solving, and preventing predation. Direct control activities at Mission Bay LETE nesting sites may include, but are not limited to the monitoring, trapping, dispersal and shooting of potential avian and mammalian predators of the LETE, according to the agreed upon Mission Bay Predator Management Protocol. At NWP, only mammalian predators of the LFRR, including raccoon, skunk, domestic/feral cat, opossum, rats (*Rattus* spp.) will be managed; primarily through the use of cage traps. No shooting will be conducted at the NWP. According to the Mission Bay Predator Management Protocol, non-target animals will be released on site. Target animals and seriously injured non-target animals will be euthanized, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the Protocol. Domestic cats will be transferred to the Central County Animal Shelter, located at 5480 Gaines Street, San Diego, CA. WS personnel will provide wildlife damage management at Mariner's Point, North Fiesta Island, and Stoney Point, as required from July-September, 2016 (or until all LETE nesting activity has ceased) and February-June 2017. Predator management activities at the NWP will be conducted July-August, 2017 and February-June, 2017 at a comparatively reduced level.

ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL: City of San Diego

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: This activity is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA State Guidelines Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment).

ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: City of San Diego Mayor-Appointed Designee.

STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The City of San Diego conducted an environmental review and determined that this activity meets the categorical exemption criteria set forth in the CEQA State Guidelines, Sections 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources), which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment, and Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in the exemption for Section 15308; and where the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 would not apply.

CITY CONTACT: Karolynn Estrada
MAILING ADDRESS: 3775 Morena Boulevard, MS #30M
San Diego, CA 92117
PHONE NUMBER: (858) 581-7603

On December 23, 2016 the City of San Diego made the above-referenced environmental determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This determination is appealable to the City Council. If you have any questions about this determination, contact the City Project Manager listed above.

Applications to appeal CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed in the office of the City Clerk within 10 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**January 6, 2017**). The appeal application can be obtained from the City Clerk, 202 'C' Street, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101.

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

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POSTED: 12/23/2016

REMOVED: _____

POSTED: M. Herrmann