



February 14, 2024

To: Sandra Lavendar-Martin, Project Manager, Department of Transportation District 11
From: Eric Lardy, City Planner, City of Carlsbad
Re: EA2024-0041 – Avenida Encinas Channel Maintenance Emergency Project

Thank you for submitting a request to determine applicability of Department of Transportation (Caltrans) flood maintenance activities. The project, at 5600 Avenida Encinas, involves the removal of approximately 300 cubic yards of accumulated sediment and vegetative debris from the Avenida Encinas Channel to restore and maintain its functional integrity and prevent potential flooding during high volume storm events, which could put the public's health, safety, and welfare at risk.

The project area falls under a Caltrans maintenance easement and within the Mello II segment of the City of Carlsbad Local Coastal Program (LCP). Caltrans is required to notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the above-mentioned work. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a no permit required determination. Vegetation removal shall occur outside of bird breeding season. If necessary, a bird survey shall be required to be provided.

The requirements for processing a Coastal Development Permit for the City are established in Chapter 21.201 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code. Section 21.201.060 (B) establishes activities that are exempt from the requirements of a minor coastal development permit and coastal development permit. 21.201.060 (B) (10) allows for exemptions to "Repair or maintenance activities not described in Section 21.201.070 of this chapter." Section 21.201.070 describes significant maintenance activities that are required to get a Coastal Development Permit. The thresholds for this proposed work are well under the limits of the code to require a Coastal Development Permit. Caltrans conducted a vegetation analysis in the channel area, determining that the project is not near sensitive habitats or bluff regions. The project includes efforts to revegetate the channel sides with Coastal Sage Scrub species and cattails. Given Caltrans' maintenance easement, combined with these revegetation efforts, the project will not impact environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

This Early Assessment satisfies the requirements of CMC21.201.060 (D) as notice and record of the permits issued for exempt projects.

Please contact me at eric.lardy@carlsbadca.gov or 442-339-2712 if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Lardy".

Eric Lardy
CITY PLANNER
City of Carlsbad

cc: Rosanne Humphrey, Senior Program Manager
Tim Carroll, Senior Engineer
Izzak Mireles, Associate Planner