

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT AMENDMENT

Date: January 26, 2024

To: All Interested Parties

From: Kevin Kahn, Central Coast District Manager
Devon Jackson, Central Coast Coastal Planner

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 3-19-0020
Applicant: San Simeon Community Services District

Original CDP Approval

CDP 3-19-0020 was originally approved by the Coastal Commission on July 11, 2019, and it recognized a series of projects at the San Simeon Community Services District's (CSD) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in San Simeon, including after-the-fact authorizations for a riprap revetment fronting the WWTP (completed in 1983), replacement of a portion of the ocean outfall pipeline (completed in 1984) and other outfall-related repairs and replacements (completed between 2010-2013), improvements to a pipe support structure across Arroyo del Padre Juan Creek, including placement of riprap at abutments (completed in 1995), full replacement of the pipe support structure (completed in 1999), and various other after-the-fact structural upgrades at the WWTP itself. The CDP also authorized augmentation of the revetment by adding two feet to its height, and a complete inspection of the outfall to assess its structural integrity, and, if repairs or other improvements were identified, for CSD to submit a CDP amendment application to authorize such work. Finally, the CDP authorized a 10 year term in which time CSD is to plan for and execute the relocation of WWTP functions to a more inland location or locations, removal of WWTP and related development (including the outfall pipeline), restoration of the WWTP site to natural bluff, creek, and beach conditions, and donation of the site to a public agency for open space/park purposes.

Proposed CDP Amendment

Based on the aforementioned outfall inspection, the outfall has some structural deficiencies that need correcting, and thus CDP 3-19-0020 would be amended to allow for an initial dive survey to identify and refine current conditions on and around the pipeline, relocation of any built up materials at the end of the pipeline, installation of a concrete mattress at the end of the pipeline (to keep it affixed in place on the ocean bottom), placement of multiple concrete-filled burlap sacks along the ocean bottom under free spanning sections of the pipeline (to ensure stability), and installation of an anode bracket at the end of the pipeline (to be used to remotely assess its condition over time). All previous terms and conditions of the Commission's original CDP approval would be unchanged. The Commission's reference number for this proposed amendment is **3-19-0020-A1**.

3-19-0020-A1 (San Simeon CSD Outfall)

Executive Director's Immateriality Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13166(b) of the California Code of Regulations, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission has determined that the proposed CDP amendment is immaterial for the following reasons:

The purpose of the proposed project is to address certain structural deficiencies identified by CSD as part of its CDP-required outfall inspection. Portions of the outfall structure¹ are unsupported (i.e., elevated above the ocean bottom),² and the project would bolster physical support under these sections with cement-filled burlap sacks.³ In addition, the end of the outfall would be supported with a 20-foot-long by 5-foot-wide and 8-inch thick concrete 'mattress' that would similarly serve to anchor the outfall's terminus in place.⁴ No work is proposed on any sensitive hard bottom substrate (e.g., rocky reefs), and will only take place on sandy bottom areas as those are the places where such shifting sands have resulted in underlying 'voids' leading to structural integrity issues. The project includes a series of construction best management practices to avoid adverse impacts to marine resources, including pre-construction surveys identifying the precise location of any hardbottom substrate, an oil spill prevention plan, worker environmental awareness training, and biological monitoring. Construction is expected to be two to three days in duration. In sum, the proposed project is relatively minor, will facilitate the continued safe use of the WWTP's outfall during its continued operation, won't affect the CDP's basic framework for relocation/removal/restoration/dedication, and includes construction measures to avoid any significant marine resource concerns. The proposed project can therefore be found consistent with the Commission's original CDP approval and the Coastal Act.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA Section 21080.5(d)(2)(a) prohibits a proposed development from being approved if there are feasible alternatives and/or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect that the development may have on the environment.

The Commission's review, analysis, and decision-making process for CDP-related matters, such as this, has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as being the functional equivalent of the environmental review required by CEQA (CCR Section 15251(f)). Accordingly, in fulfilling that review, this report has discussed the relevant coastal resource issues with the proposal and has concluded

¹ The outfall structure is an approximately 8-inch diameter and 840-foot long plastic pipeline that is coated in concrete that terminates in some 30 feet of ocean water offshore from the WWTP.

² These unsupported pipeline sections total some roughly 50 nonconsecutive linear feet.

³ The sacks would occupy about 3 square feet underneath the pipeline at each location, totaling some approximately 150 square feet of coverage underneath the pipeline altogether. The use of cement filled sacks as a method to support such ocean pipelines is a fairly common practice, and is generally preferred from an environmental standpoint because it doesn't require the installation of permanent metal or concrete embedded pipeline supports.

⁴ Where this type of structural support mechanism is a fairly common practice for ocean pipelines for similar reasons.

3-19-0020-A1 (San Simeon CSD Outfall)

that approval of the proposed immaterial CDP amendment is not expected to result in any significant environmental effects, including as those terms are understood in CEQA.

Accordingly, it is unnecessary for the Commission to suggest modifications (including through alternatives and/or mitigation measures) as there are no significant adverse environmental effects that approval of the proposed immaterial CDP amendment would necessitate. Thus, the proposed immaterial CDP amendment will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects for which feasible mitigation measures have not been employed, consistent with CEQA Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A).

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

The CDP will be amended as proposed if no written objections are received in the Central Coast District office within ten working days of the date of this notice. If such an objection is received, the objection and the Executive Director's response to it will be reported to the Commission on February 9, 2024 at the Coastal Commission's hybrid virtual and in-person meeting in Oceanside. If three or more Commissioners object to the Executive Director's determination of immateriality at that time, then the application will be processed as a material CDP amendment.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Devon Jackson in the Central Coast District office at Devon.Jackson@coastal.ca.gov.