

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Jennifer Blackhall
Email: Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (858) 354-3285



Lead Agency

County of San Diego
5510 Overland Ave, Ste. 410
San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Thomas Duffy
Email: Thomas.Duffy@sdcounty.ca.gov
Phone: (858) 694-3907

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2015121090

Project Title: Cole Grade Road Improvements North Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-34795-R5)

Project Location (San Diego County): The Cole Grade Road Improvements North Project (Project) is located at two unnamed tributaries to Keys Creek, in the County of San Diego, State of California; latitude 33.268661, longitude -117.023469; Assessor's Parcel Number 001-332-01-18.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-SDO-34795-R5), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, San Diego County Department of Public Works.

The Project is limited to the widening of Cole Grade Road to include creation of a 12-foot-wide decomposed granite pedestrian and equestrian pathway on the west side of Cole Grade Road; drainage swales on both sides of the road; replacement of a double-box culvert with a bridge where Cole Grade Road crosses one unnamed tributary to Keys Creek (Tributary A); and in-kind replacement of a single-box culvert where Cole Grade Road crosses another unnamed tributary to Keys Creek (Tributary B). The Project will be constructed in two phases to accommodate traffic. In the first phase, one half of the bridge width will be constructed, and traffic will be allowed to continue. In the second phase, traffic will be moved to the newly constructed portion of the bridge, the remaining width of the new bridge will be constructed, and half of the double-box culvert will be removed. Bridge construction includes headwalls and abutments in the banks of Tributary A. Flows will be diverted around and away from construction activities in Tributary A and Tributary B. Vegetation will be removed and a path will be graded into the streams for equipment access. Project activities are anticipated to take up to 18 months to complete.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on August 11, 2025, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.

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6. Findings **were** made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Final EIR prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signed by:
Signature: Glen Lubcke Date: 8/11/2025
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Glen Lubcke, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____