

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



April 28, 2026

ENVR 20260400011

Amanda Lee
Principal Planner
City of Del Mar
1050 Camino del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014

Re: San Dieguito Lagoon Levee, Habitat Enhancement, and Trail Project [SCH 2026030742](#) – Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Amanda Lee,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. The CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)* for the San Dieguito Lagoon Levee, Habitat Enhancement, and Trail Project (Project). The City of Del Mar (City) is the lead agency.

The project site is located along the north, southeast, and southwest riverbank of the San Dieguito Lagoon, west of Jimmy Durante Blvd. The project involves incorporating living levee design concepts, to improve the resilience to the rise of sea levels, and the building of a new Public Works Facility located on the southwest side of the existing Public Works Facility.

The North County Transit District (NCTD) Coaster Railway parallels the west side of the Del Mar Fairgrounds on the north and northwest shore, and as well as the Del Mar Public Works building, on the southwest shore. The [Coast to Crest Trail](#) runs along the south side of the San Dieguito River between [Camino Del Mar](#) and [Jimmy Durante Blvd](#) and is divided by the NCTD rail corridor. Currently, there is no existing legal crossing for the trail across the NCTD rail corridor and trains are authorized to travel up to 90 mph in this segment of the rail corridor. To the south, the tracks curve to the west, reducing the visibility of any approaching northbound trains.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is planning to construct a second track through the area. Due to trespassers regularly observed crossing over the tracks at-grade, and as part of construction of the second track, SANDAG filed a formal application with the CPUC ([A2004020](#)) to construct a new grade-separated pedestrian underpass to serve the Coast to Crest Trail users. The pedestrian underpass was authorized by the CPUC under Decision [D2110004](#) and is estimated to be completed and opened for trail users in 2031.

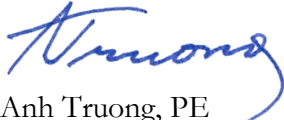
The trail east of the NCTD corridor is proposed to be realigned as part of the Project (shown on Figure 6 of the MND Report). The project team should coordinate with SANDAG to provide mitigation measures to deter and prevent people from crossing the tracks until the pedestrian underpass has been constructed. If the trail realignment commences and is completed before the opening of the pedestrian underpass, the Project should install signage along the trail to indicate that there is no crossing of the NCTD rail corridor and install adequate fencing along the NCTD rail corridor to deter and prevent illegal crossings of the track.

Amanda Lee
ENVR 20260400011
April 28, 2026

RCEB staff is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Huie at (415) 308-0533, or howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anh Truong, PE
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
Matt Valerio, Dudek, mvalerio@dudek.com
Angela Anderson, SANDAG, Angela.Anderson@sandag.org