



County of San Diego

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DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT NAME: DOLLAR GENERAL - BORREGO MAJOR GRADING PLAN

RECORD ID: PDS2021-LDGRMJ-30354

ENVIRONMENTAL LOG NO.: N/A

**This Document is Considered Draft Until it is Adopted by the Appropriate
County of San Diego Decision-Making Body.**

This Mitigated Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Environmental Initial Study that includes the following:

- a. Initial Study Form
 - b. Attached extended studies for Archaeological and Biological Resources
1. California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Required Mitigation Measures:

Refer to the attached Environmental Initial Study for the rationale for requiring the following measures:

ANY PERMIT: (Prior to the approval of any plan, issuance of any permit, and prior to occupancy or use of the premises in reliance of this permit).

BIO#1-OFFSITE MITIGATION [PDS, FEE X2]

INTENT: In order to mitigate for the impacts to Sonoran mixed woody scrub habitat, which is a sensitive biological resource pursuant to the Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources, offsite mitigation shall be acquired. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** The applicant shall purchase habitat credit or provide for the conservation of habitat of 2.85 acres of Tier II credits, located at the Cleveland Corridor Conservation Bank, or other County-approved mitigation bank, as indicated below:

- a. **Option 1:** If purchasing Mitigation Credit, the mitigation bank shall be approved by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The following evidence of purchase shall include the following information to be provided by the mitigation bank:
 1. A copy of the purchase contract referencing the project name and numbers for which the habitat credits were purchased.
 2. If not stated explicitly in the purchase contract, a separate letter must be provided identifying the entity responsible for the long-term management and monitoring of the preserved land.
 3. To ensure the land will be protected in perpetuity, evidence must be provided that a dedicated conservation easement or similar land constraint has been placed over the mitigation land.
 4. An accounting of the status of the mitigation bank. This shall include the total amount of credits available at the bank, the amount required by this project and the amount remaining after utilization by this project.
- b. **Option 2:** If habitat credit cannot be purchased in a mitigation bank, then the applicant shall provide for the conservation habitat of the same amount and type of land located in San Diego County as indicated below:
 1. Prior to purchasing the land for the proposed mitigation, the location should be pre-approved by [PDS].
 2. A Resource Management Plan (RMP) shall be prepared and approved pursuant to the County of San Diego Biological Report Format and Content Requirements to the satisfaction of the Director of PDS. If the offsite mitigation is proposed to be managed by DPR, the RMP shall also be prepared and approved to the satisfaction of the Director of DPR.
 3. An open space easement over the land shall be dedicated to the County of San Diego or like agency to the satisfaction of the Director of PDS. The land shall be protected in perpetuity.
 4. The purchase and dedication of the land and the selection of the Resource Manager and establishment of an endowment to ensure funding of annual ongoing basic stewardship costs shall be complete prior to the approval of the RMP.
 5. In lieu of providing a private habitat manager, the applicant may contract with a federal, state, or local government agency with the primary mission of resource management to take fee title and manage the mitigation land). Evidence of satisfaction must include a copy of the contract with the agency, and a written statement from the agency that (1) the land contains the specified acreage and the specified habitat, or like functioning

habitat, and (2) the land will be managed by the agency for conservation of natural resources in perpetuity.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant shall purchase the offsite mitigation credits and provide the evidence to the [PDS, PCC] for review and approval. If the offsite mitigation is proposed to be owned or managed by DPR, the applicant must provide evidence to the [PDS PCC] that [DPR, GPM] agrees to this proposal. It is recommended that the applicant submit the mitigation proposal to the [PDS, PCC], for a pre-approval. If an RMP is going to be submitted in-lieu of purchasing credits, then the RMP shall be prepared and an application for the RMP shall be submitted to the [PDS, ZONING]. **TIMING:** Prior to approval of any plan or issuance of any permit, and prior to use of the premises in reliance of this permit, the mitigation shall occur. **MONITORING:** The [PDS, PCC] shall review the mitigation purchase for compliance with this condition. Upon request from the applicant [PDS, PCC] can pre-approve the location and type of mitigation only. The credits shall be purchased before the requirement can be completed. If the applicant chooses option #2, then the [PDS, ZONING] shall accept an application for an RMP, and [PDS, PPD] [DPR, GPM] shall review the RMP submittal for compliance with this condition and the RMP Guidelines.

Grading Plan Notes:

PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING: *Prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances.* Happens after the grading permit has been issued and the applicant is ready for ground disturbing activity. Pre-con is a meeting in which the PDCI Inspector meets with the EOW, contractors, monitors, PDS Staff, consultants, and the owner to discuss responsibilities and expectations.

BIO#2-RESOURCE AVOIDANCE [PDS, FEE X2]

INTENT: In order to avoid impacts to migratory birds and raptors, which is a sensitive biological resource pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), a Resource Avoidance Area (RAA), shall be implemented on all plans. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** There shall be no brushing, clearing and/or grading such that none will be allowed within 300 feet of migratory bird nesting habitat and 500 feet of raptor nesting habitat during the breeding season of the migratory bird and raptor within RAA as indicated on these plans. The breeding season is defined as occurring between February 1 and August 31. The Director of PDS [PDS, PCC] may waive this condition, through written concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided that no migratory birds or raptors are present in the vicinity of the brushing, clearing, or grading as demonstrated by a survey completed no more than 72-hours prior to the start of brushing, clearing, or grading. **DOCUMENTATION:** The applicant shall provide a letter of agreement with this condition; alternatively, the applicant may submit a written request for waiver of this condition. Although, no grading shall occur within the RAA until concurrence is received from the County and the Wildlife Agencies. **TIMING:** Prior to preconstruction conference and prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances and throughout the duration of the grading and construction, compliance with this condition is mandatory unless the requirement is waived by the County upon receipt of concurrence from the Wildlife Agencies. **MONITORING:** The [DPW, PDCI] shall not allow any grading in the RAA during the specified dates, unless a concurrence from the [PDS, PCC] is received. The [PDS, PCC] shall review the concurrence letter.

CULT#GR-1 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING – PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING

INTENT: In order to comply with the County of San Diego Guidelines for Significance – Cultural Resources, an Archaeological Monitoring Program shall be implemented. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** The County approved Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American Monitor shall attend the pre-construction meeting with the contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the archaeological monitoring program. The Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American Monitor shall monitor the original cutting of previously undisturbed deposits in all areas identified for development including off-site improvements. The Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American monitor shall also evaluate fill soils to determine that they are clean of cultural resources. The archaeological monitoring program shall comply with the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Cultural Resources. **DOCUMENTATION:** The applicant shall have the contracted Project Archeologist and Kumeyaay Native American attend the preconstruction meeting to explain the monitoring requirements. **TIMING:** Prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances this condition shall be completed. **MONITORING:** The [DPW, PDCI] shall confirm the attendance of the approved Project Archaeologist.

DURING CONTRUCTION: (The following actions shall occur throughout the duration of the grading construction).

CULT#GR-2 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING – DURING CONSTRUCTION

INTENT: In order to comply with the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Cultural Resources, a Cultural Resource Grading Monitoring Program shall be implemented. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** The Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American Monitor shall monitor the original cutting of previously undisturbed deposits in all areas identified for development including off-site improvements. The archaeological monitoring program shall comply with the following requirements during earth-disturbing activities:

- a. **Monitoring.** During the original cutting of previously undisturbed deposits, the Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American Monitor shall be onsite as determined necessary by the Project Archaeologist. Inspections will vary based on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and the presence and abundance of artifacts and features. The frequency and location of inspections will be determined by the Project Archaeologist in consultation with the Kumeyaay Native American Monitor. Monitoring of the cutting of previously disturbed deposits will be determined by the Project Archaeologist in consultation with the Kumeyaay Native American Monitor.
- b. **Inadvertent Discoveries.** In the event that previously unidentified potentially significant cultural resources are discovered:
 1. The Project Archaeologist or the Kumeyaay Native American monitor shall have the authority to divert or temporarily halt ground disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources.
 2. At the time of discovery, the Project Archaeologist shall contact the PDS Staff Archaeologist.

3. The Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the PDS Staff Archaeologist and the Kumeyaay Native American Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resources.
4. Construction activities will be allowed to resume in the affected area only after the PDS Staff Archaeologist has concurred with the evaluation.
5. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field. Should the isolates and/or non-significant deposits not be collected by the Project Archaeologist, then the Kumeyaay Native American monitor may collect the cultural material for transfer to a Tribal Curation facility or repatriation program.
6. If cultural resources are determined to be significant, a Research Design and Data Recovery Program (Program) shall be prepared by the Project Archaeologist in consultation with the Kumeyaay Native American Monitor. The County Archaeologist shall review and approve the Program, which shall be carried out using professional archaeological methods. The Program shall include (1) reasonable efforts to preserve (avoidance) "unique" cultural resources or Sacred Sites; (2) the capping of identified Sacred Sites or unique cultural resources and placement of development over the cap, if avoidance is infeasible; and (3) data recovery for non-unique cultural resources. The preferred option is preservation (avoidance).

c. **Human Remains.** If any human remains are discovered:

1. The Property Owner or their representative shall contact the County Coroner and the PDS Staff Archaeologist.
2. Upon identification of human remains, no further disturbance shall occur in the area of the find until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. If the human remains are to be taken offsite for evaluation, they shall be accompanied by the Kumeyaay Native American monitor.
3. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the NAHC shall immediately contact the Most Likely Descendant (MLD).
4. The immediate vicinity where the Native American human remains are located is not to be damaged or disturbed by further development activity until consultation with the MLD regarding their recommendations as required by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 has been conducted.
5. The MLD may with the permission of the landowner, or their authorized representative, inspect the site of the discovery of the Native American human remains and may recommend to the owner or the person responsible for the excavation work means for treatment or disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site.
6. Public Resources Code §5097.98, CEQA §15064.5 and Health & Safety Code §7050.5 shall be followed in the event that human remains are discovered.

d. **Fill Soils.** The Project Archaeologist and Kumeyaay Native American monitor shall evaluate fill soils to determine that they are clean of cultural resources.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant shall implement the Archaeological Monitoring Program pursuant to this condition. **TIMING:** The following actions shall occur throughout the duration of the earth disturbing activities. **MONITORING:** The [DPW, PDCI] shall make sure that the

Project Archeologist is on-site performing the monitoring duties of this condition. The [DPW, PDCI] shall contact the [PDS, PPD] if the Project Archeologist or applicant fails to comply with this condition.

PALEO#GR-1 - PALEONTOLOGICAL MONITORING

INTENT: In order to comply with the San Diego County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Paleontological Resources, a Paleontological Monitoring Program shall be implemented.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT: This project site has marginal levels of sensitive Paleontological resources. All grading activities are subject to the [County of San Diego Grading Ordinance Section 87.430](#), if any significant resources (Fossils) are encountered during grading activities.

- a. The grading contractor is responsible to monitor for paleontological resources during all grading activities. If any fossils are found greater than 12 inches in any dimension, stop all grading activities and contact PDS before continuing grading operations.
- b. If any paleontological resources are discovered and salvaged, the monitoring, recovery, and subsequent work determined necessary shall be completed by or under the supervision of a Qualified Paleontologist pursuant to the [San Diego County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Paleontological Resources](#).

TIMING: The following actions shall occur throughout the duration of the grading construction.

MONITORING: The [DPW, PDCI] shall make sure that the grading contractor is on-site performing the Monitoring duties of this condition. The [DPW, PDCI] shall contact PDS if the grading contractor or applicant fails to comply with this condition.

ROUGH GRADING: *(Prior to rough grading approval and issuance of any building permit).*

CULT#GR-3 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING – ROUGH GRADING

INTENT: In order to comply with the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Cultural Resources, an Archaeological Monitoring Program shall be implemented. **DESCRIPTION OF**

REQUIREMENT: The Project Archaeologist shall prepare one of the following reports upon completion of the earth-disturbing activities that require monitoring:

- a. **No Archaeological Resources Encountered.** If no archaeological resources are encountered during earth-disturbing activities, then submit a final Negative Monitoring Report substantiating that earth-disturbing activities are completed and no cultural resources were encountered. Archaeological monitoring logs showing the date and time that the monitor was on site and any comments from the Native American Monitor must be included in the Negative Monitoring Report.
- b. **Archaeological Resources Encountered.** If archaeological resources were encountered during the earth disturbing activities, the Project Archaeologist shall provide an Archaeological Monitoring Report stating that the field monitoring activities have been completed, and that resources have been encountered. The report shall detail all cultural artifacts and deposits discovered during monitoring and the anticipated time schedule for completion of the curation and/or repatriation phase of the monitoring.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant shall submit the Archaeological Monitoring Report to [PDS, PPD] for review and approval. Once approved, a final copy of the report shall be submitted to the South Coastal Information Center and any culturally affiliated Tribe who requests a copy. **TIMING:** Upon completion of all earth-disturbing activities, and prior to Rough Grading Final Inspection (Grading Ordinance SEC 87.421.a.2), the report shall be completed. **MONITORING:** [PDS, PPD] shall review the report or field monitoring memo for compliance with the project MMRP, and inform [DPW, PDCI] that the requirement is completed.

PALEO#GR-2 - PALEONTOLOGICAL MONITORING

INTENT: In order to comply with the County of San Diego Significance and Report Format Guidelines for Paleontological Resources, a Paleontological Monitoring Program shall be implemented. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** One of the following letters shall be performed upon completion of the grading activities that require monitoring:

- a. If no paleontological resources were discovered, submit a "No Fossils Found" letter from the grading contractor to PDS stating that the monitoring has been completed and that no fossils were discovered, and including the names and signatures from the fossil monitors. The letter shall be in the format of Attachment E of the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance for Paleontological Resources.
- b. If paleontological resources were encountered during grading, a letter shall be prepared stating that the field grading monitoring activities have been completed, and that resources have been encountered. The letter shall detail the anticipated time schedule for completion of the curation phase of the monitoring.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant shall submit the letter report to PDS for review and approval. **TIMING:** Upon completion of all grading activities, and prior to Rough Grading Final Inspection (Grading Ordinance SEC 87.421.a.2), the letter report shall be completed. **MONITORING:** PDS shall review the final negative letter report or field monitoring memo for compliance with the project MMRP, and inform [DPW, PDCI] that the requirement is completed.

FINAL GRADING RELEASE: *(Prior to any occupancy, final grading release, or use of the premises in reliance of this permit).*

CULT#GR-4 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING – FINAL GRADING

INTENT: In order to comply with the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Cultural Resources, an Archaeological Monitoring Program shall be implemented. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT:** The Project Archaeologist shall prepare a final report that documents the results, analysis, and conclusions of all phases of the Archaeological Monitoring Program if cultural resources were encountered during earth-disturbing activities. The report shall include the following, if applicable:

- a. Department of Parks and Recreation Primary and Archaeological Site forms.
- b. Daily Monitoring Logs

c. Evidence that all cultural materials have been conveyed as follows:

- (1) Evidence that all prehistoric materials collected during the archaeological monitoring program have been submitted to a San Diego curation facility or a culturally affiliated Native American Tribal curation facility that meets federal standards per 36 CFR Part 79, and, therefore, would be professionally curated and made available to other archaeologists/researchers for further study. The collections and associated records, including title, shall be transferred to the San Diego curation facility or culturally affiliated Native American Tribal curation facility and shall be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence shall be in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that the prehistoric archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid.

OR

Evidence that all prehistoric materials collected during the grading monitoring program have been repatriated to a Native American group of appropriate tribal affinity and shall be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary, if required. Evidence shall be in the form of a letter from the Native American tribe to whom the cultural resources have been repatriated identifying that the archaeological materials have been received.

- (2) Historic materials shall be curated at a San Diego curation facility and shall not be curated at a Tribal curation facility or repatriated. The collections and associated records, including title, shall be transferred to the San Diego curation facility and shall be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence shall be in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that the historic materials have been received and that all fees have been paid.

- d. If no cultural resources are discovered, a Negative Monitoring Report must be submitted stating that the archaeological monitoring activities have been completed. Grading Monitoring Logs must be submitted with the negative monitoring report.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant's archaeologist shall prepare the final report and submit it to [PDS, PPD] for approval. Once approved, a final copy of the report shall be submitted to the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) and any culturally affiliated Tribe who requests a copy.

TIMING: Prior to any occupancy, final grading release, or use of the premises in reliance of this permit, the final report shall be prepared. **MONITORING:** [PDS, PPD] shall review the final report for compliance with this condition and the report format guidelines. Upon acceptance of the report, [PDS, PPD] shall inform [PDS, LDR] and [DPW, PDCI], that the requirement is complete, and the bond amount can be relinquished. If the monitoring was bonded separately, then [PDS, PPD] shall inform [PDS or DPW FISCAL] to release the bond back to the applicant.

ADOPTION STATEMENT: This Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted and above California Environmental Quality Act findings made by the:

Director of Planning & Development Services

on September XX, 2022

Diana Perez, Project Manager
PDS Land Development Division

DP:MD:dk