



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6201 S Street, MS H201  
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

County of Sacramento Clerk/  
Recorder  
P.O. Box 839  
Sacramento, CA 95812 -0839

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**Project Title:** SMUD Gas Pipeline Operations Inline Inspection Verification Dig: MLCB-33560-1

**Project Applicant:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 6201 S Street, MS H201, Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

**Project Location:** Sacramento County at the northeast corner of the intersection of Clay Station Road and Twin Cities Road.

**Project Description:** SMUD contractors will inspect SMUD's high pressure natural gas pipeline. The proposed project consists of the following scope of work:

1. Install a 4-inch, temporary, dewatering well no more than 20 feet below ground surface.
2. Dig a 10-foot x 10-foot hole to expose the pipe location. The depth is expected to be no more than 11-feet, where at least 2-feet of space beneath the pipeline is exposed for inspection. Initial ground disturbance will be done by potholing with hand tools to safely locate the gas pipeline. Once the pipeline has been located all other work will be conducted with heavy equipment (e.g. backhoe, excavator).
3. Install shoring equipment within dig area.
4. Perform a visual inspection of the pipeline.
5. Remove shoring equipment. Equipment utilized as a form of prop or support (e.g. aluminum plates and shores), usually temporary, that is used during the excavations to prevent collapse of the excavated area.
6. Backfill hole with cement slurry sand 18-inches above pipeline and native soil to preexisting conditions.
7. Workers will be provided environmental awareness training in advance of the work. It is not anticipated that any resources will be disturbed during the work activities.
8. Work is expected to begin in June and July of 2019 and will occur over one to two weeks.

**Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**Exempt Status (Check One)**

- Ministerial (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines §15268)
- Declared Emergency (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines §15269(a))
- Emergency Project (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(9), 21084; CEQA Guidelines §15301: Existing Facilities, 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction, 15306: Information Collection, and 15309: Inspections)
- Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 states that "Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use." This project may involve the repair or maintenance of a public utility natural gas pipeline involving no expansion. Section 15302 states that "Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced..." This project may involve replacing an existing section in the same location along SMUD's gas pipeline and will not increase the capacity of the pipeline. Section 15306 states that "Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource." This project involves due diligence to further inspect and collect information following a recent inline inspection of SMUD's natural gas pipeline. Section 15309 states that "Class 9 consists of activities limited entirely to inspections, to check for performance of an operation, or quality, health, or safety of a project, including related activities such as inspection for possible mislabeling, misrepresentation, or adulteration of products." This project involves the inspection of SMUD's natural gas pipeline to verify proper and safe operation of the facility.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

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June 25, 2019

Signature

Date

Ashlen McGinnis

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Printed Name

Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency



Signed by Lead Applicant



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date Received for filing at OPR:

JUN 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE