

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**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:** Agreement for Scope Development and Technical Support for Interconnection Related Activities

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

**Project Location:** Meetings and related activities will be conducted in Sacramento at the offices of California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), or by phone.

**Project Description:** This Agreement by CDWR and SMUD is considered an action to fund and otherwise support appropriate feasibility and planning studies, as those terms are used in Public Resources Code, Section 21102 and 21150 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, for possible future actions which CDWR and SMUD have not approved, adopted, or funded. This Agreement is also an action to allow for basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, as those terms are used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15306. This Agreement will enable SMUD to perform contract scope development and supporting activities for contracts that are prerequisites to obtaining service, if any, from SMUD and receiving energy, if any, over SMUD's transmission system, for a future possible conveyance facility, if any. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to predetermine CDWR's decision after completion of the CEQA process and CDWR may determine, consistent with the completed analysis under CEQA, that no conveyance project shall be approved. The information collection, and feasibility and planning studies would help inform potential requirements for a transmission interconnection service contract, a dynamic energy scheduling contract, a transmission wheeling contract, and other contracts, as needed, or no contracts, if none are needed. This Agreement will terminate on December 31, 2021 unless terminated earlier by either party or mutually extended. The Agreement's budget will be capped at \$35,000 and may be increased by agreement if the scope of activities require more time or effort. In addition, CDWR may provide SMUD with a temporary notice to stop work

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District and California Department of Water Resources

**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 §21083; CEQA Guidelines §15306 Information Collection)
- Statutory Exemptions (Authority Cited: CEQA PRC §21083, Reference: CEQA PRC §21102 and §21150; CEQA Guidelines §15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies)

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

Under CEQA Guidelines § 15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for making the determination that a project is exempt under CEQA. SMUD has determined that the Agreement for Scope Development and Technical Support for Interconnection Related Activities is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15306 Information Collection Exemption which reads "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. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded." SMUD also has determined that the above description is statutorily exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies which reads "A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities."

No construction or actual delivery of power over a transmission system for delta conveyance will proceed under this Agreement. Moreover, no construction or actual delivery of power over a transmission system for delta conveyance will proceed unless and until CDWR, as lead agency under CEQA, has complied with CEQA and considered feasible mitigation and alternatives to delta conveyance, including but not limited to the no project alternative. This Agreement is limited to providing monetary payment by CDWR to SMUD for their information collection, and feasibility and planning studies, including participating in meetings and telephone calls, and providing updates, as requested by CDWR. The scope development and technical support for interconnection related activities under this Agreement will not have a legally binding effect on later activities. Execution of separate contracts is necessary to authorize any construction, transmission, or delivery of power.

The Agreement for Scope Development and Technical Support for Interconnection Related Activities involves the agreement to collect information and support feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which CDWR and SMUD which have not approved, adopted, or funded. The scope development and technical support for interconnection related activities will not have a legally binding effect on later activities, and therefore is considered exempt in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15306 and §15262.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Ammon Rice  
Supervisor, Environmental Services

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Signature

June 26, 2019

Date

Ammon Rice  
Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
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