



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: Hedge 7 Feeder Tie Project

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

Project Location: The project is located in Sacramento, from SMUD’s 88th and Fruitridge Substation northwest along Central California Traction railroad tracks to 21st Avenue

Project Description: The Hedge 7 Feeder Tie Project (Project) consists of reconstructing an existing single-circuit 69 kilovolt (kV) line with 12kV underbuild to a double-circuit 69kV line with 12kV underbuild. The double-circuit will allow SMUD to utilize existing substation capacity to serve load concentrated in the Fruitridge area and allow the reconfigured lines to relieve a forecasted overload on the Hedge Bulk Transformer. The project is located along the Central California Traction railroad tracks from SMUD’s 88th and Fruitridge Substation then northwest for approximately 1.6 miles (8,550 feet) to 21st Avenue. A portion (1,325 feet) of the existing overhead 12kV will be installed underground in order to provide clearance to the 230kV facilities in the area. Generally, the existing poles would be replaced with new poles and would be installed in the same location but would be between 15-20 feet taller.

Construction is anticipated to take approximately 4 months and is scheduled to be completed before June 2021.

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 §15302(c)(d), Replacement or Reconstruction, and §15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

General Rule (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))

Statutory Exemptions

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 reviewed the proposed project and has identified that it qualifies for an exemption from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule) of the State CEQA Guidelines (Division 6 of Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations). The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. No special circumstances exist that the proposed Project would create a significant adverse effect on the environment (i.e. no sensitive species or habitats, no hazardous sites, no scenic highways, no historic resources, etc.).

Additionally, SMUD determined that the proposed project qualifies for an exemption from CEQA pursuant to Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction (d) Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding and Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. SMUD considers its poles to be small structures.

Therefore, the proposed project qualifies for the exemption under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15302(d), and 15303; no further environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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December 15, 2020

Signature

Date

Ammon Rice

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Printed Name

Lead Agency



Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____