



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: Twin Cities Road 69kV Feeder Tie

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

Project Location: Along Twin Cities Road, from Stockton Blvd west of Highway 99 east to Cherokee Lane

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to provide reliability and operational flexibility to maintain and improve restoration time during unplanned outages on the 69 kilovolt (kV) feeders serving the southern portion of SMUD's service territory. Improving this line will relieve a forecasted 1-megawatt (MW) overload projected for the summer of 2021. The project would provide SMUD operational flexibility to minimize restoration time during unplanned outages on the 69kV feeders serving the southern portion of SMUD's service territory. This project would also provide SMUD operational flexibility for planned outages.

To provide system reliability, the project would reconstruct an existing 12kV line as a single circuit 69kV line with 12kV underbuild along Twin Cities Road between Marengo Road and Cherokee Lane. A new single-circuit 69kV line would be constructed from Stockton Blvd east for a quarter mile along Twin Cities Road. The project involves replacing 27 poles, 6 of which will be steel and the remaining 21 will be wood; a total of 3 new poles will be constructed, one pole west of Stockton Blvd, one pole about 800 feet north of Twin Cities Road on Cherokee lane, and one pole about 300 feet south of Twin Cities Road on Cherokee Lane. The existing poles along the project alignment are 40-50 feet tall. Generally, the new poles would be installed in the same location as the existing poles but would be between 15-25 feet taller. The poles along Twin Cities Road from Highway 99 to Cherokee Lane are configured for 69kV but would be replaced with new poles approximately 5 feet taller. This project would eliminate the forecasted deficiency for sustained outages during summer peak load and would minimize power restoration time during off-peak times. Construction access will be from the roadside and traffic control measures will be implemented. This project is expected to start in Spring 2021 and take approximately 2 months.

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(b), Existing Facilities & §15302(c), Replacement or Reconstruction, and §15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)
- Common Sense Exemption (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 determined that the Twin Cities Road 69kV Feeder Tie Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15301, Existing Facilities, which reads, “Class 1 consists of the...minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use,” and (b) “Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services,” and §15302, Replacement or reconstruction, which reads, “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 ...” and “(c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity” , and §15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, which reads, “Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure...” Lastly, the common sense exemption which states that “CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where 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.” The Twin Cities Road 69kV Feeder Tie project involves the replacement of existing utility poles within the project limits and extending a 69kV line above an existing 12kV line in the project area to better utilize existing capacity and provide redundancy. The purpose of the project is to increase reliability in the area during planned or unplanned outages and to better utilize existing capacity and therefore is considered exempt in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15301, §15302, §15303, and §15061(b)(3).



Lead Agency Contact Person:

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December 15, 2020

Signature

Date

Rob Ferrera

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Printed Name

Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____