



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Clerk Recorder
Sacramento County
P.O. Box 839
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, H201
P.O. Box 15830
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

Project Title: SMUD Morrison Creek Valve Station Pipe Support Project

Project Applicant: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

Project Location: The proposed location is west of Franklin Boulevard and south of Cosumnes River Boulevard within the Boundary of Sacramento Regional Sanitation District’s nature preserve area

Project Description: SMUD is proposing to modify two pipe supports within the Morrison Creek valve station. The current pipe supports encase the pipes in concrete up to the centerline of the pipes and prevent the bottom surface of the pipe from being inspected during required periodic inspections. Federal regulations require that the entire pipe is able to be regularly inspected, which necessitates the pipe to be free of any material that may hide defects. Evidence of corrosion has been discovered which requires the removal of the current pipe supports. The supports will be replaced with structures that allow unencumbered future inspection and maintenance. The project involves demolition of the existing concrete pipe support structures, and installation of modified pipe supports after inspection. Surface areas will be restored to previous conditions and all existing materials will be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Construction is scheduled to begin July 2021 and be completed September 2021. All workers will receive environmental awareness training and nesting surveys will be completed before construction activities begin.

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 of publicly and investor owned utilities; §15302 Replacement or reconstruction (c); §15303 (d), New construction or conversion of small structures.

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 Morrison Creek Valve Station Pipe Support Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15301 (b), Existing Facilities, which allows for projects involving the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing utility facilities to be exempt under CEQA where negligible or no expansion of use occurs. The proposed project meets the criteria as the alteration of the existing pipe supports is a “minor alteration” as no expansion of the facility would occur. CEQA Guidelines §15302 (c), Replacement or Reconstruction, allows for an exemption where replacement/reconstruction of a utility system occurs, and in this case applies to the replacement of the pipe support structure. Finally, CEQA Guidelines §15303 (d), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, exempts from CEQA the construction of small utility infrastructure, such as the pipe supports. Therefore, the project is considered exempt in accordance with the aforementioned CEQA Guidelines §15301, §15302, and §15303.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Rob Ferrera
 Environmental Management Specialist
 SMUD
 6201 S Street, Mailstop H201, Sacramento, CA 95817
 916-732-6676
 email: rob.ferrera@smud.org



Rob Ferrera
 Environmental Management Specialist
 SMUD

6/29/2021
 Date

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____