



# 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 B209  
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

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

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

**Project Title:** Almond-Elm Substation #1 Transformer Replacement Project

**Project Applicant:** SMUD

**Project Location:** The project site is an existing substation located at 7010 Almond Avenue in the community of Orangevale in Sacramento County; APN:257-0230-005.

**Project Description:** The Almond-Elm Substation #1 Transformer Replacement Project (Project) consists of replacing an aging 20-megavolt-ampere (MVA) transformer and associated switchgear that are located on the eastern portion of the substation site. The current layout creates a challenge for maintenance workers due to the proximity of workers with energized parts. The existing layout also does not meet fire protection setback requirements. A new 20-MVA transformer and switchgear will be placed in a location within the existing substation footprint that meets both worker safety and fire setback requirements. Surface excavation will be required for the removal and reconstruction of the new transformer and switchgear concrete foundation pad with a surrounding sub-grade oil containment area. The Project will also include modification and/or replacement of support infrastructure (i.e. switch pole, tap pole, pull box, conduit, grounding, etc.) to service the new transformer and switchgear. The Project will add approximately 5 feet of gravel at the depth of 4" to the front substation entrance.

Construction is expected to begin in October 2021 and be completed by June 2022.

**Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:** SMUD

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** SMUD

**Exempt Status (Check One)**


- Ministerial (CEQA PRC Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268)
- Declared Emergency (CEQA PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (CEQA PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (CEQA PRC Section 21080(b)(9), 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction))
- Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))
- Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

SMUD has reviewed and determined that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15302 (Replacement and Reconstruction). Section 15301 applies to projects that consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alternations of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. 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..." Thus, the Project will involve the repair and minor alternation of an existing substation facility resulting in no change or expansion of use; and the replacement of an existing transformer and switchgear in the same location and serving the same purpose and capacity. Therefore, no further environmental review is required.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

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Environmental Specialist, Environmental Services  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

August 24, 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Amy Spitzer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_