

Campus/Field Station/Division UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Project Account [As Applicable]

Project Title Advanced Light Source Switchstation A3 And Substation 301-307 Replacements, UC LBNL, Alameda County

For purposes of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), and Amended University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA, this project has been reviewed and initially classified as indicated below. Please check (X) as appropriate. Include project description and appropriate local map with your submission.

I. **EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT OF 1970** - When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the action will result in physical change to the environment (15061(b)(3)), or the action is specifically exempted by statute (15260-15285), the project is classified as generally exempt from CEQA. General/Statutory Exemption: § [Insert applicable CEQA Guidelines Section]

II. **CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT** - This project falls under the indicated Class(es) of Exemption(s), none of the exceptions to the exemption apply (15300.2), and there is no significant effect on the environment (for complete list see CEQA Guidelines Section 15300):

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 17: Open Space Contracts or Easements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 23: Normal Operation of Facilities for Public Gatherings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction or Small Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 25: Transfer of Land: Natural Conditions/Historical Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions: Prevent Hazardous Waste/Substances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 31: Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 32: In-Fill Development Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 13: Acquisition for Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 16: Transfer of Land Ownership for Parks | Other: <u>[If other, identify which class under Section 15300]</u> |

III. **INITIAL STUDY** - This project is not statutorily or categorically exempt from CEQA; an Initial Study is to be prepared to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Stand-Alone Tiered Initial Study (15152): [Identify EIR from which Initial Study is tiered]

IV. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** - It is known that the project will have a direct or cumulatively significant effect on the environment and an EIR will be/has been prepared. Identify the type of EIR:

Programmatic Stand-Alone (Project-Specific) [Identify EIR title]

Additional project analysis:

None/Findings Only Addendum Subsequent Supplement to EIR: [Identify EIR from which document is tiered/based]

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - [Insert brief project description, provide supporting documentation as appropriate.]

Real estate transaction type: Acquisition Sale Lease Easement License [Include proposed use in project description below]

See next page for Project Description

V. Does this project conform to the approved LRDP? YES NO NA [If NO or NA, include explanation in Project Description above]

VI. L Sossikian
Prepared by: Leana Sossikian

May 24, 2022
Date

J Philliber
Local Approved by: Jeff Philliber

May 24, 2022
Date

VII. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- Concur with Classification Do not concur with Classification

Not required
Signed

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Campus Planning Department
One Cyclotron Road, M/S 76-225
Berkeley, CA 94720

Project Title:	Advanced Light Source Switch Station A3 and Substation 301-307 Replacements
Project Location:	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
City:	Berkeley
County:	Alameda County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):

UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory would perform mechanical replacements and/or upgrades of the Advanced Light Source (ALS) switchstation A3 (SW-A3) and substations 301 to 307 along with associated switchgear, transformers, and breakers. These actions would address deficient and outdated mechanical systems that are essential to several Berkeley Lab research facilities, Protective Services, and the on-site Firehouse. The project would conform to all applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations.

Public Agency Approving Project:	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Agency Carrying Out Project:	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Exempt Status:	Categorical Exemption. Class 1, Existing Facilities Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction
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Reasons why the project is exempt:

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, the Project would involve operation and minor alteration "of existing public and private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment" in a manner which is consistent with their designed and on-going use. All applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations would be followed.

The Project would also meet applicable provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 "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."

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 describes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location, cumulative impact, significant effect, scenic highway, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project.

Campus/Field Station/Division UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory **Project Account** N/A

Project Title Advanced Light Source Switchstation A3 And Substation 301-307 Replacements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - *[Insert brief project description, provide supporting documentation as appropriate.]*

The University of California, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (UC LBNL) proposes to perform mechanical replacements and/or upgrades of the Advanced Light Source (ALS) switchstation A3 (SW-A3) and substations 301 to 307 along with associated switchgear, transformers, and breakers. These actions would address deficient and outdated mechanical systems that are essential to several Berkeley Lab research facilities, Protective Services, and the on-site Firehouse.

A 2017 facilities evaluation identified that the 12kV switchstation and substations that provide power to Buildings 6 and 48 are at the end of their useful life and have an increasing potential for arcing faults or failure. The proposed project would address these risks and would further be expected to reduce the probability of future long-term unplanned outages and the need for frequent testing and corrective maintenance of equipment.

The project site is within the Berkeley Lab's heavily developed "Old Town" area and would take place adjacent to Building 6 on the southeast side between the building and Segre Road. The general vicinity is heavily developed and features a relatively high level of foot traffic and research-related activity.

The project proposes to implement like-for-like or functionally equivalent replacements of the SW-A3 15 kilovolt (kV) medium voltage outdoor metal clad switchgear, 12.47 kV/480 Volt (V) secondary unit substations (substations 301 to 306), and the 12.47 kV/4.16 kV primary unit substation (substation 307). Additional relaying for transformer protection and Arc Flash Hazard Reduction for the Building 6 replaced switchyard infrastructure would be implemented along with a new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. The replacement of equipment would remain inside the boundaries and footprint of the existing switch stations.

The proposed replacement would involve removal and disposal of retired equipment; minor grading and installation of pads and footings, or re-use of the existing pad to the extent feasible; construction or installation of new equipment; and operation of the new mechanical systems. During project construction, temporary power would be provided, as needed, to Buildings 6 and 37 in order to accommodate the installation process, including planned power shutoffs when disconnecting and reconnecting power source cables.

Work is expected to begin in mid-2025 and last approximately one year. A total of 30-40 truck trips would be expected over that period, including approximately six concrete truck trips and various equipment delivery trucks (with no more than 2-3 deliveries per day). A peak of up to 20 daily construction workers would be on site. Construction work would be expected to take place during normal business hours and days, and it may occasionally occur during weekends. No disturbance of undeveloped natural areas would be required; no tree removal is expected. Traffic may temporarily be re-routed and road closures may occur to accommodate the routing of temporary power needs during construction.

All applicable LBNL "Standard Project Features" and best management practices established under UC LBNL's 2006 Long-Range Development Plan EIR would be employed by the project. Dust control would be implemented and all necessary permits would be secured from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Construction truck trips would be managed by Berkeley Lab's Construction Coordinator to ensure that all construction trucks accessing the Berkeley Lab campus would stay well below significance thresholds. Operationally, the proposed Project would be unnoticeable and would continue the same function.

The proposed project site falls within and would be consistent with the Lab's "Research and Academic" land use designation as identified in its 2006 Long-Range Development Plan. This land use "zone" describes areas that are largely developed and that provide space and support to LBNL research and administrative functions.

A failure in the switchstation and resulting unplanned outage would threaten the on-going research, laboratory materials, and other operations at the LBNL campus; it would be critical to have this switchstation operating properly in order to provide power to several of LBNL's key laboratory buildings. The Project would also ensure full functioning of the Lab's critical fire and emergency management operations during disaster or emergency events.

The proposed Project would meet the Categorical Exemption conditions provided under CEQA Guidelines §15301 for "Class 1: Existing Facilities" and §15302 for "Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction." Class 1 would apply as its provisions include "the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting... or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use." The applicable provisions of Class 2 include "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." None of the Categorical Exemption exceptions listed under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would apply.