

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Name: San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (lead agency)</p> <p>Contact: Kena Teon, MTS Grants Administrator</p> <p>Address: 1255 Imperial Avenue Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92101</p> <p>Telephone: 619-557-4575</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (Include County name)</p> <p>Address: Office of the Recorder – County Clerk 1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260 P.O. Box 121750 San Diego, CA 92112-1750 Phone: (619) 237-0502</p>	

<p>1. Project Title:</p>	<p>Orange Line Improvement Project</p>
<p>2. Project Applicant:</p>	<p>San Diego Metropolitan Transit System</p> <p>Contact: Kena Teon MTS Grants Administrator 1255 Imperial Avenue Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92101</p>
<p>3. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):</p>	<p>The Orange Line Improvement Project spans from the City of San Diego through the City of El Cajon. A map of the Orange Line is attached.</p>
<p>4. (a) Project Location – City: Cities of San Diego, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and El Cajon</p>	<p>(b) Project Location – County: San Diego</p>
<p>5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:</p>	<p>On October 20, 2022, MTS’ Board of Directors accepted the 2022 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant Award for the Zero Emission Transit Enhancement Project, which includes the Orange Line Improvement Project (“Project”).</p>

	<p>The Orange Line is a light rail line in the San Diego Trolley system. The Project will span from the City of San Diego through the City of El Cajon. It will provide widespread enhancements along the 19 stations and 17.6 miles of track, resulting in (a) increased train speed, (b) grade crossing safety improvements, and (c) station passenger information sign upgrades. The Project will replace the existing crossing warning system and bi-directional signaling system, modernize the grade crossing approaches and automated block signaling (ABS) system, and replace variable message signs (VMS).</p> <p>The Project will increase transit ridership and improve passenger safety and efficiencies, providing a direct and meaningful benefit to disadvantaged and low-income households/communities. The Project will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve transit service.</p>
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	<p>San Diego Metropolitan Transit System</p> <p>Contact: Kena Teon MTS Grants Administrator 1255 Imperial Avenue Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92101</p>
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	<p>San Diego Metropolitan Transit System</p> <p>Contact: Kena Teon MTS Grants Administrator 1255 Imperial Avenue Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92101</p>
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	
(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	
(d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	<p>Class 1, 14 Cal. Code Regs., § 15301 (existing facilities)</p> <p>Class 2, 14 Cal. Code Regs., § 15302 (replacement or reconstruction)</p> <p>Class 3, 14 Cal. Code Regs., § 15303 (new construction or conversion of small structures)</p>
(e) <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency.	
(f) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	<p>Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.25(b) (transportation project exemptions and criteria)</p>

	Pub. Resources Code, § 21080(b)(10); 14 Cal. Code Regs., § 15275(a) (specified mass transit projects)
(g) <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	
9. Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The Project is exempt under Public Resources Code section 21080.25, subdivision (b), which includes projects that would improve customer information and wayfinding for transit riders (subdivision (b)(2)), transit prioritization projects (subdivision (b)(3)), and the maintenance, repair, relocation replacement, or removal of any utility infrastructure associated with these types of projects (subdivision (b)(7)).</p> <p>The Project is further statutorily exempt from environmental review under Public Resource Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(10) and State CEQA Guidelines section 15275, subdivision (a) because it will increase passenger or commuter services on rail lines already in use, including the modernization of existing stations and parking facilities.</p> <p>The project is categorically exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15301 (Class 1) as a transit improvement project consisting of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; State CEQA Guidelines section 15302 (Class 2) as the 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 State CEQA Guidelines section 15303 (Class 3) because it consists of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures.</p>
10. Lead Agency Contact Person: Telephone:	Kena Teon, MTS Grants Administrator Click to enter address 619-557-4575
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form "A") before filing. Not applicable to Project	
12. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable to Project	
13. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, the date of the public hearing was: October 20, 2022	

Signature

Date: 10/20/2022

Kena M. Teon

Title: Grants Administrator

Name

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: [Click to enter date](#)

(Clerk Stamp Here)

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.