



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research

P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0344

County Clerk  
County of: Los Angeles

From: The Trustees of The California State University  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

**Project Title:** SCE Service Switchyard & Core Campus Infrastructure Upgrade

**Project Applicant:** California State University, Dominguez Hills

### **Project Location-Specific:**

California State University, Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson, CA 90747. Project site is east of the campus's existing Central Plant (Building #87) on a site designated in the Master Plan for Central Plant Expansion (Building #165), off Birchknoll Drive.

**Project Location – City:** Carson      **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

### **Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

**Nature of Project:** The proposed project will replace existing c. 1970s transformers and increase power capacity. The project will also make necessary upgrades to electrical and mechanical infrastructure to connect campus loads to the SCE electrical system and provide redundancy. The project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will replace the existing campus and SCE 16.5kV-12kV service switchgear, transformers, and campus main 12kV switchgear. A new SCE service switchyard and campus 12kV switchgear will be constructed on a vacant area east of the existing Central Plant (#87) that is designated in the campus Master Plan for Central Plant Expansion (#165). The second phase will upgrade the existing core campus electrical distribution system. The existing SCE underground duct bank will be used, and a new duct bank and manholes will be installed for SCE use to install one new 16,500V service feeder.

The construction site will require grading for site preparation and to create an entrance off Birchknoll Drive. The SCE equipment will be installed on SCE-approved precast structures. The adjacent areas to the north and east will be landscaped in accordance with the Campus Landscape Planting Guide to screen the switchyard from view.

**Project Purpose:** The proposed system accommodates planned, approved campus master plan growth and will contribute to decarbonizing the Central Plant, reducing natural gas use on campus, and accommodating electrification projects that reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions.

**Project Beneficiaries:** California State University, Dominguez Hills

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** The Trustees of The California State University

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California State University, Dominguez Hills

**The project is exempt from CEQA under the following authority:**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);**
- 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);**
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));**
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:** Sec. 15303, Class 3 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures]; Section 15304, Class 4 [Minor Alterations to Land]
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(3))**
- Statutory Exemption. State code number:**

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Because the project involves the replacement of and upgrades to existing electrical infrastructure, including installation of small pre-cast structures, a manhole, and underground ducting, it is categorically exempt under Sec. 15303 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures] which is applicable to the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures, including “(d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.” Because the project entails site preparation and trenching to install new ducting, it is also categorically exempt under Section 15304 [Minor Alterations to Land], which is applicable to minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, including “(a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent,” and “(f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.” Finally, the project qualifies for the common sense exemption (Section 15061(b)(3)), which is applicable to projects with the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, but where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

The project purposes and permitted uses are consistent with the qualifying criteria contained in these exemptions. For these reasons, the project has been determined to have no possibility of causing a significant effect on the environment.

**Exceptions.** None of the exceptions to the use of these categorical exemptions in Section 15300.22 of the CEQA Guidelines is applicable to the project as the project would not result in impacts on resources of hazardous or critical concern, cumulative impacts, significant impacts due to unusual circumstances, or impacts on scenic highways, listed hazardous waste sites, or historical resources.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Subhi Murad **Area Code/Telephone:** (562) 706-9324

**Signature:** *Subhi Murad* **Date:** January 17, 2023

**Title:** Senior Project Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

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