

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
INLAND DESERTS REGION
3602 INLAND EMPIRE BLVD., C-220
ONTARIO, CA 91764
EPIMS.R6@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Ortega Grid Battery Energy Storage System Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-RIV-33471-R6)

Project Location (Riverside County): The Project is located within the central portion of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Lake Elsinore 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, Riverside County. The site is located at east of Interstate-15 (I-15) and southeast of the intersection of Camino Del Norte and O Hana Circle and consists of three project parcels (Assessor Parcel Number 377-200-045, 377-200-046, and 377-200-047).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS- RIV-33471-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Ortega Grid, LLC (Permittee). Ortega Grid, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hecate Grid LLC, proposes to construct and operate a 20-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) Project on approximately 1.8-acres. This would require the relocation of the existing headwall and culvert under the street to be extended, along with the existing drainage pipe in Ephemeral Drainage A, up to 30 feet towards the Project site. The existing concrete headwall and concrete box culvert will be extended. An access road perpendicular to Camino del Norte and span bridge over Ephemeral Drainage 1 will be constructed for access to the Project Site. The bridge over Ephemeral Drainage 1 will be a prefabricated water load structure bridge.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Ortega Grid, LLC

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. [State code number]
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 32; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15332

Reasons why project is exempt:

One project parcel (Assessor Parcel Number 377-200-045) qualifies for exempt status. The effects of the proposed Project within parcel 377-200-045 are typical of those generated within that class of Projects (*i.e.*, Class 32 – Infill Development Projects) characterized as in-fill development meeting the conditions of Section 15332 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The proposed Project will not cause a significant effect on the environment for the parcel 377-200-045, and is, therefore, categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA status of the project for the other two parcels (Assessor Parcel Number 377-200-046 and 377-200-047) is not known at present time. Therefore, the project is partially exempt for the specific parcel 377-200-045.

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 Signature: Alisa Ellsworth Date: 4/18/2023
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 Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____