



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: Herald-Twin Cities Substation Upgrade Project

Project Applicant: SMUD

Project Location: The project site is an existing substation located at 12616 West Lane, Herald, California.

Project Description: The Herald-Twin Cities Substation Upgrade Project (Project) consists of replacing two transformers with two new 12.5 megavolt-ampere (MVA) transformers and replacing the ground grid and associated equipment. The existing transformers are nearing their end of operational life and would be replaced to maintain service and reliability. The footprint of the existing substation would be expanded from 0.15 acres to 0.4 acres to allow the new equipment to be installed and the existing equipment to be removed in phases while maintaining service. A new substation gate and chain-link fence would be installed and the driveway would be repaved. New foundations for (2) 12.5MVA transformers, switchgear and 4 capacitor banks would be constructed and new ground grid, conduit, 69kV poles, and grounding wells would be installed. Surface excavation will be required for the removal of the existing foundations and reconstruction of the new transformers and switchgear concrete foundation pads with surrounding sub-grade oil containment areas. The transformer foundations can have a depth of about 5 feet and the switch pole foundations can have a depth of about 10 feet. All work would occur within the 0.5-acre SMUD owned property. Civil construction is scheduled to start in March of 2023 and would take about 5 months.

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))
- 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 Section 15061 (b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption). Section 15301 applies to projects that consists 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. Thus, the Project will involve the repair and minor alternation of an existing substation facility resulting in negligible expansion of use. The common sense exemption in Section 15061 (b)(3) states that “Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA”. The project will serve the same purpose as the existing substation. All work will be within the existing SMUD owned parcel. Thus, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, no further environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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Signature

June 14, 2023

Date

Ammon Rice

Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____