



# 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:** Hedge ESS Flow Battery Pilot and Demonstration Project Phase 1B

**Project Applicant:** SMUD

**Project Location:** 9268 Tokay Ln., Sacramento, CA 95829; APN 064-0036-005

**Project Description:** The proposed Hedge ESS Flow Battery Pilot and Demonstration Project Phase 1B (Project) consists of a 3.63-megawatt (MW) / 29 megawatt-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system facility at the southern end of the Sacramento Power Academy. This Project was evaluated under a separate CEQA analysis; however, the project has been modified and therefore a new evaluation was performed. The Project site area is approximately 6 acres and adjacently south of the existing Hedge Battery Energy Storage System onsite. The Project site is characterized as barren and disturbed and occupied by existing solar panels.

The phase referred to as Phase 1B is proposed to start in Spring 2024. Phase 1B would establish twenty-nine (29) ESS Inc. Energy Center battery storage system containers. Each unit measures 40 feet long by 8 feet wide by 20 feet high and would be placed side-by-side in four rows of seven to eight containers oriented north to south. The solar panels currently occupying the Phase 1B project area would be removed and disposed of at an appropriate landfill. The ground surface would be covered with crushed gravel and all battery containers would be placed on helical piers. The Project would also include associated support equipment (i.e. inverters, transformers, switchgear, metering, etc.) and two concrete pads for the supporting equipment and underground containment basins. In addition, up to 1,000 feet of trenching at a depth of 4 feet would be required for the installation of electrical conduit and cable from the energy storage system to existing equipment.

**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), 15303 (New Construction), and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land))
- Common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))




**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), 15303 (New Construction), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), 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; (b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. Thus, the Project will involve the minor alternation of an existing power generation facility and would not result in expansion of use. Section 15303 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel. The Project would not exceed the maximum allowable structures on any legal parcel. Section 15304 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes, including (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. The Project would not remove any healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The trenching would be temporary and the surface would be restored. 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”. All work will be within the existing SMUD-owned parcel and there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, no further environmental review is required.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

July 24, 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: \_\_\_\_\_