



# 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:** Franklin Boulevard Pipe Cut-out Project

**Project Applicant:** SMUD

**Project Location:** Near the intersection of Franklin Boulevard and Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95757

**Project Description:** SMUD is proposing to replace a section of gas pipeline located below Franklin Boulevard, south of Elk Grove Boulevard in the City of Elk Grove, CA. Initial ground disturbance would be done by potholing with hand tools to safely locate the gas pipeline. Once the pipeline has been located excavation and pipe replacement work would be conducted with heavy equipment (e.g. backhoe, excavator). The project consists of inspection of the pipe and excavating a hole approximately 8-feet-wide by 10-feet-long by 12-feet-deep to expose the pipe. The pipe would then be manually cut out and replaced with a new section. A one hundred percent radiograph test would be conducted. SMUD would then inspect and recoat the pipe per SMUD specifications. The excavation would be backfilled to SMUD and City Inspector conditions and the road median and surface would be restored to original condition. Construction is planned to begin in or around April 2024 and is expected to take 5 to 6 weeks to complete.

**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 §21080(b)(9), 21084; CEQA Guidelines §15301: Existing Facilities, 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction, 15304: Minor Alterations to Land, and 15309: Inspections)
- Common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 states that "Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use." This project may involve the repair or maintenance of a public utility natural gas pipeline involving no expansion. Section 15302 states that "Class 2 consists of 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 ... " This project would involve replacing a section of pipe in the same location and will not increase the capacity of the pipeline. Section 15304 states that " Class 4 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.; where "Minor trenching, backfilling where the surface is restored". This project involves restoring the land back to its previous conditions. Section 15309 states that "Class 9 consists of activities limited entirely to inspections, to check for performance of an operation, or quality, health, or safety of a project, including related activities such as inspection for possible mislabeling, misrepresentation, or alteration of products." This project involves the inspection of SMUD's natural gas pipeline to verify proper and safe operation of the facility.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

3/19/2024  
Date

Aziza Ubaka-Sampson  
Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Lead Agency

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_