

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro)
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-02
Los Angeles, CA 90012

County Clerk
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650



FILED
Mar 29 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by M. DI VALTERRA

Project Title: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Vignes Ramp Undergrounding

Project Applicant: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located east of Los Angeles Union Station and Patsaouras Plaza in the downtown area of the City of Los Angeles (City). The project includes replacement of overhead power lines that currently extend from the parking lot of the Denny's restaurant to Patsaouras Plaza with underground conduit that would cross under the northbound US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps, with additional underground conduit extending north and south to connect to existing electrical vault locations.

The proposed work area is located within property owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way (ROW). The proposed work area is bound on the north by the intersection of the US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps and Ramirez Street, on the west by Patsaouras Plaza, on the south by the El Monte Busway and US-101, and on the east by the Denny's restaurant, parking area, and Ramirez Street.

Project Location - City: City of Los Angeles Project Location - County: County of Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Metro proposes to relocate six power cables from overhead power poles to underground conduits in a single steel casing; install underground conduit, vaults, and cabling; and remove the overhead power poles. The proposed underground electrical conduit would supply power to the Metro J Line (Silver) Bus Station at Patsaouras Plaza along the El Monte Busway, and miscellaneous existing Caltrans facilities such as water meters, ramp metering, and streetlights. The project is not dependent on any other actions or projects to be implemented.

The project includes concrete and asphalt removal, mechanical trenching of the conduit alignment, jack and boring activities within Caltrans ROW under the northbound US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps, driven pile shoring, and mechanical excavation for underground vaults and jack and bore pits. The project would include the following construction activities:

- The project requires an encroachment permit approval from Caltrans.
- Trenching for approximately 160 feet adjacent to the US-101/Vignes off-ramp within the Denny's parking area to install the proposed conduit. Short segments of trench at the northern and southern ends of the alignment (approximately 30 feet in length, to a depth of 8 feet) would extend into Caltrans ROW to tie into existing electrical lines.
- Installation of an underground electrical vault with above-ground vents within the Denny's parking area, outside of Caltrans ROW.
- Removal of an underground electrical vault, vents, and bollards within Caltrans ROW, south of the Denny's parking area.
- Jack and boring activities under the northbound US-101/Vignes on- and off-ramps at a depth of 18 feet to install a 30-inch steel casing with two 4-inch conduits with fiber optic cable. Jack and bore activities will require a 36 x 14 x 19-foot boring pit (west of Caltrans ROW) and a 12 x 17 x 19-foot receiving pit (east of Caltrans ROW) to install the steel casing and proposed conduit. The proposed conduit would be installed inside the casing once the dirt is removed. Associated pull boxes and vaults would also be installed at a depth of four feet below ground surface.
- Trenching for approximately 125 feet perpendicular to the US-101/Vignes off-ramp within a vacant lot in Metro ROW to install conduit.
- Removal of four existing power poles and six overhead power cables.
- Geotechnical investigations (e.g., borings)

The buried steel casing would cross under two existing storm drains within the ramp area, within Caltrans ROW. Open trenching across the US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps is not feasible due to the two storm drains within the ramps.

REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
UNTIL April 29 2024
ON March 29 2024
THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

Open trenching is not permissible by Caltrans as it would also require full ramp closure which would adversely affect traffic circulation and operation of US-101. Metro would use standard excavation methods in the remaining areas on either side of the US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps to install the proposed conduit and vaults. At each area of excavation, a backhoe would be used to remove fill down to native soils, after which mechanical excavations would continue in shallow lifts to the desired depth. Removal of the overhead power cables would require closure of the US-101/Vignes Street on- and off-ramps overnight and a temporary detour. The construction is expected to last approximately 2-4 months.

Figure 1 shows the work area limits and project vicinity. Figure 2 illustrates the scope of work, including areas where ground disturbance would occur at the project site. Figure 2 also shows the project features, including the existing power poles and planned conduits crossing the northbound US-101 Vignes on-and-off-ramps.



FILED
Mar 29 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by HEIDI VALTIERRA

2024 069155



FILED
Mar 29 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Records & County Clerk

Electronically signed by MEIDI WALTERRA

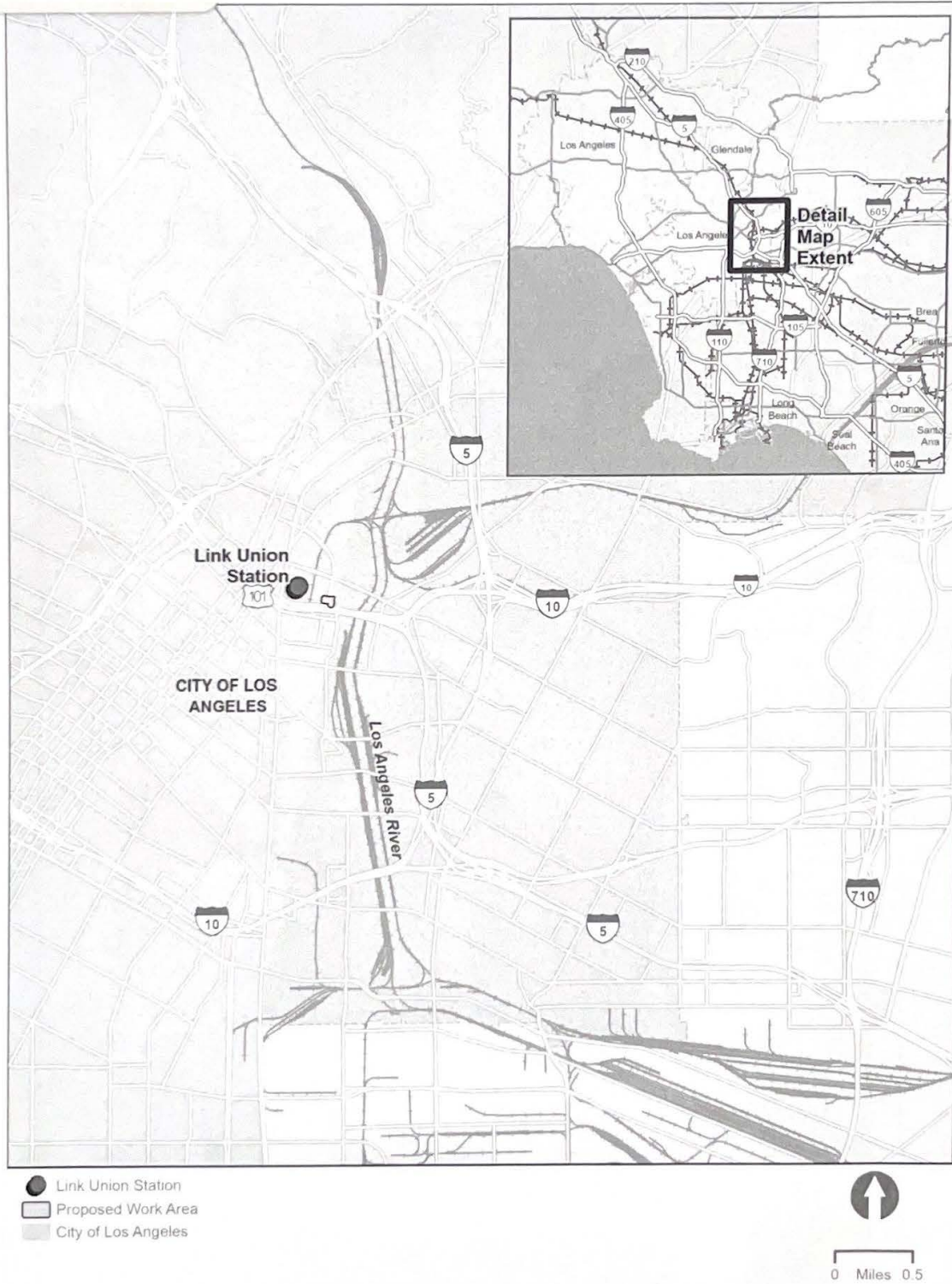
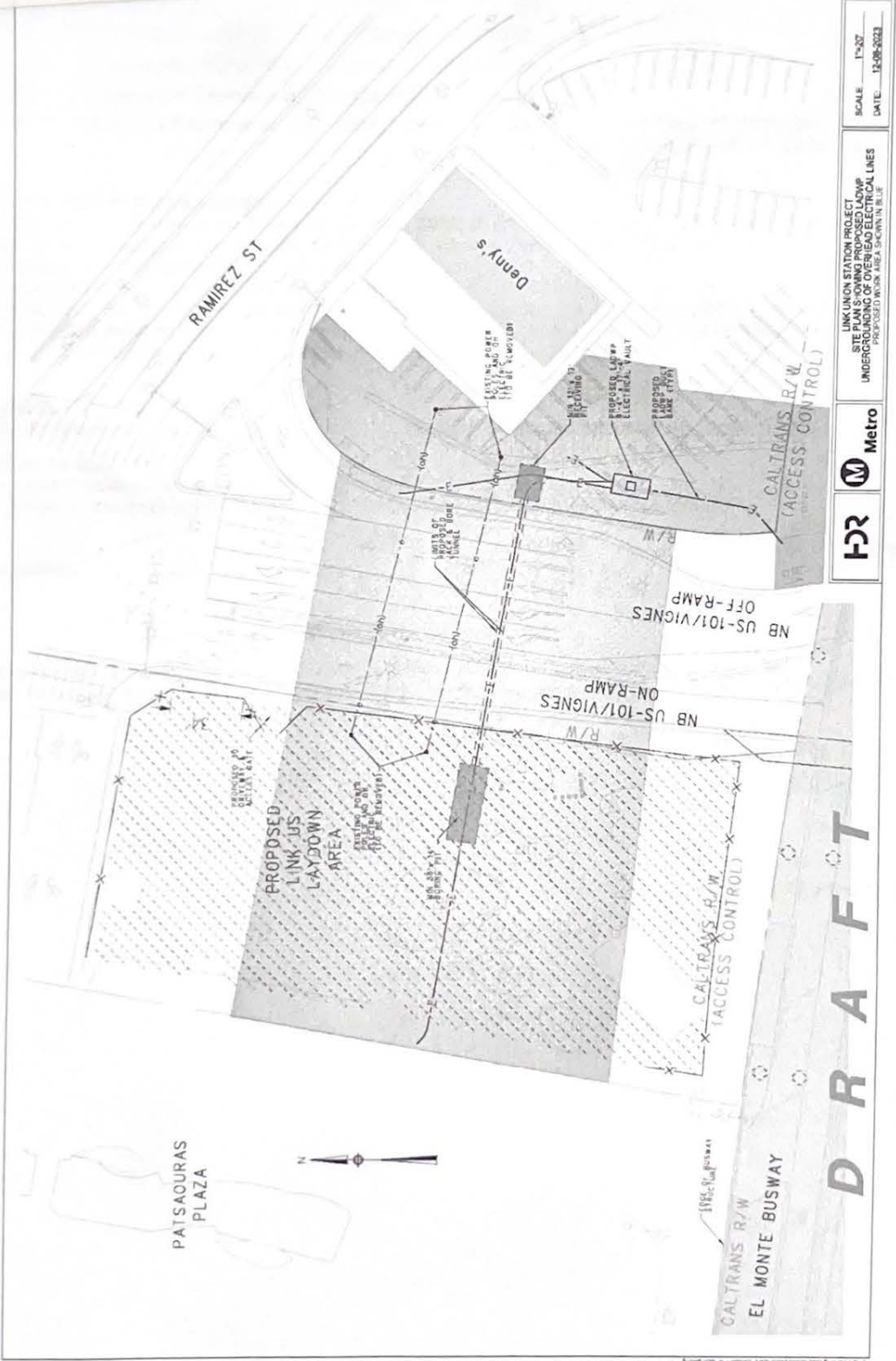


Figure 1. LADWP Vignes Ramp Undergrounding - Work Area Limits and Project Vicinity

2024 069155
 FILED
 Mar 29 2024

Dean C. Legan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk
 Electronically signed by HEIDI VALTIERA



HDR Metro
 LINK UNION STATION PROJECT
 SITE PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED LADWP
 UNDERGROUNDING AND HEAD ELECTRICAL LINES
 PROVIDED BY CALTRANS AND MTD
 SCALE: 1"=20'
 DATE: 12-08-2023

Figure 2. LADWP Vignes Ramp Undergrounding - Scope of Work

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Sec. 21080.21 (a) and (b). Application of Division to Public Right-Of-Way Pipeline Projects Less Than One Mile in Length

Reasons why project is exempt:

According to Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21080.21 (a), CEQA does not apply to public right-of-way pipeline projects of less than one mile in length within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way for the installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline. For purposes of this section, "pipeline" includes subsurface facilities but does not include any surface facility related to the operation of the underground facility. As the project would include installation of subsurface conduit to accommodate power cable and is less than one mile in length, it qualifies as a pipeline project that would be statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to PRC Section 21080.21(a).

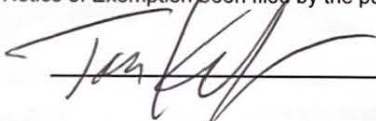
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Melissa Levitt

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (213) 265-0774

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 3/28/2024 Title: Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 2108.3 and c, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at _____

OPR: Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.



FILED
Mar 29 2024

Dean C. Lugo, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by HEIDI VALTIERRA