

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Alameda

From: (Public Agency): Dublin San Ramon Services District
7051 Dublin Boulevard
Dublin, California 94568

(Address)

**ENDORSED
FILED
ALAMEDA COUNTY**

Project Title: Biogas Treatment System Improvements (CIP 16-P028)

Project Applicant: Dublin San Ramon Services District

JUN 13 2024

Project Location - Specific:

7399 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588

MELISSA WILK, County Clerk
By *Al* Deputy

Project Location - City: Pleasanton

Project Location - County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will improve the existing biogas scrubber by replacing components of the existing system while installing additional treatment components to increase treatment capacity. Additional biogas treatment is necessary because the current treatment system is running at capacity. Biogas is treated prior to being sent to the cogeneration engines at the wastewater treatment plant in order to increase efficiency of the engines and to help meet regulatory requirements set forth by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for cogeneration systems.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Dublin San Ramon Services District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dublin San Ramon Services District

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: \$15329 Class 29: Cogeneration Projects at Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project will increase capacity and efficiency of biogas treatment systems at the wastewater treatment plant, resulting in less biogas having to be flared and more, cleaner biogas being able to be utilized in the cogeneration process. There will be no net increase in emissions as a result of this project; excess biogas would have previously been flared, whereas this project will allow it to be used in a cleaner manner.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Ryan Pendergraft Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (925) 549-3325

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: *Jar R L* Date: 6/7/24 Title: General Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

**DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION
FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

Project Title: Biogas Treatment System Improvements (CIP 16-P028)
Project Location(s): 7399 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California (APN: 941-1300-1-17)
City and County: City of Pleasanton, County of Alameda

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The District's Board of Directors approved the District's Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") Ten-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2033 ("CIP Plan") on June 20, 2023 and includes the Biogas Treatment System Improvements (CIP 16-P028) ("Project").

The Project will enhance efficiency and expand the biogas scrubber capacity at the District's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWTF). See attached Location Map (Exhibit 1). The Project consists of replacing parts of the existing system, including elements of the existing biogas skid, and adding a second skid to increase biogas treatment capacity before it reaches the cogeneration system. This will provide more biogas for cogeneration and reduce flaring.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

Dublin San Ramon Services District

Exempt Status (See Attached Pages for Detailed Analysis):

- ☐ Ministerial (PRC 21080; 14 CCR §15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (PRC 21080; 14 CCR §15269)
- ☐ Emergency Project (PRC 21080; 14 CCR §15269)
- ☐ Covered by the Common Sense Exemption (14 CCR §15261(b)(3)).
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (14 CCR §15282; §PRC 21080.21)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (PRC 21084; 14 CCR §15300- §15333):

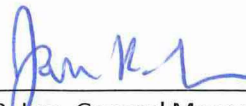
14 CCR Class 29, §15329: Cogeneration Projects at Existing Facilities; the exceptions listed in 14 CCR §15300.2 do not apply to the Project.

Contact Person: Ryan Pendergraft

Telephone: (925) 549-3325

Certification

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.



Jan R. Lee, General Manager
Dublin San Ramon Services District

6/7/24

Date

EXEMPT STATUS:

The Project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA because it falls under the following **Categorical Exemption**:

Class 29, 14 CCR §15329 Cogeneration Projects at Existing Facilities.

The Class 29 exemption covers the installation of cogeneration equipment up to 50 megawatts at existing facilities. At industrial sites, installations are exempt if they cause no net increase in air emissions or fall below the county's new source review thresholds and comply with air quality laws. At commercial and institutional sites, installations are exempt if they meet the industrial criteria, do not noticeably increase noise for nearby residences, and are adjacent to other commercial or institutional structures. The improvement of the existing biogas treatment system will result in no net increase in air emissions, will comply with applicable regulations, and will have no noticeable increase in noise. The Project is located within the District's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWTF) and will be adjacent to other institutional structures.

Exceptions to Use of Categorical Exemptions (14 CCR §15300.2)

This analysis also considered whether the Project is subject to any of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 on the use of categorical exemptions. This section prohibits the use of categorical exemptions when the Project falls under one or more of the categories listed below:

- §15300.2(a): For certain classes of projects (Classes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11), due to the location of the Project, may impact an environmental resource or hazardous or critical concern;
- §15300.2(b): When the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant;
- §15300.2(c): Where there is a reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;
- §15300.2(d): Where the Project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway;
- §15300.2(e): Where the Project is located on a state designated hazardous waste site; and
- §15300.2(f): Where the Project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

These exceptions above do not apply to the Project. The findings with respect to each exception is provided below:

- §15300.2(a): The Project is not located in an area of sensitive or hazardous or critical concern.
- §15300.2(b): There is no evidence of a potential significant cumulative impact because successive projects of the same type in the same place have not been approved and are not currently proposed.
- §15300.2(c): The Project site is surrounded by urban development and not located within a sensitive resource area. Thus, the Project will not result in any significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- §15300.2(d): Though the Project site is located adjacent to a designated scenic highway, the Project will not result in any damages to any scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources. This exception does not apply.
- §15300.2(e): This exception does not apply because the Project is not located on a state-designated hazardous waste site.
- §15300.2(f): This exception does not apply because the Project does not directly affect any historical resource, nor is the Project site located adjacent to a historical resource.

Exhibit 1

Dublin San Ramon Services District
Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
7399 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588

