

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 2
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001

Project Title: Caltrans Encroachment Permit for Pacific Power's 5G16 Happy Camp Core (Part 5) Project

Project Applicant: Pacific Power

Project Location - Specific: State Route 96 in Siskiyou County from post mile 41.131 to 41.398

Project Location - City: Happy Camp Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Pacific Power is proposing maintenance activities on their existing overhead distribution lines within the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) right-of-way along State Route 96 in Siskiyou County from post mile 41.131 to 41.398 in the community of Happy Camp. The maintenance activities are the outcome of Pacific Power's continued fire mitigation program of system hardening in California and is being conducted in accordance with the California Public Utilities Commission guidelines. The proposed maintenance activities would consist of the removal of five existing utility poles and associated anchors, replacement and installation of anchors and guy wires, the installation of underground conductors between existing poles 2390 and 2478, the overhead reconductoring between two poles at one highway crossing, and the removal of overhead conductors at one highway crossing. Part of the underground work includes the installation of two risers, one each, on poles 2390 and 2478 (poles to remain) and an above-ground sectionalizing cabinet and underground vault on the west side of State Highway 96, north of 2nd Avenue.

Disassembling equipment will include a hydraulic jack to loosen the poles and a line truck or truck-mounted crane will be used to remove the wood poles. A tractor and trailer with reels will be used to pull the ground wire and de-energized lines. Horizontal directional drilling methods will be used to install the underground conductors (2, 6" conduits). Entry and exit points for the drill will be located within work areas located near poles 2390 and 2478, and the sectionizing cabinet. The horizontal directional drill will be

set on the ground and ground disturbance will be limited to the 14-inch diameter hole drilled for the conduits. A vac truck will be used to remove and haul away fluid used for drilling. Excavation pits will be located at poles 2390 and 2478 that will be used to pull the conduit onto the riser poles. The pits will be 5 feet in length by 5 feet in width by 5 feet deep. An excavation pit will also be located at the sectionalizing cabinet that will be 7 feet in length by 4.6 feet in width by 4 feet deep for the installation of the underground vault.

Caltrans will issue an encroachment permit (0224-6-UL-0189) to allow the proposed improvements to occur within the right-of-way of State Route 96.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans (for issuance of encroachment permit)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Power

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: Existing Facilities, Section 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The California Department of Transportation has determined that the project is categorically exempt in accordance with Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) Class 1 — 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. The project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Keith Pelfrey

Phone number: (530) 941-3340

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: *Keith Pelfrey* Date: 6/11/25 Title: Branch Chief – R3

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

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