



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: Cargo - Northgate Bank 2 Upgrade

Project Applicant: SMUD

Project Location: 4104 Northgate Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95834

Project Description:

The Cargo-Northgate Bank 2 Upgrade Project (Project) is located within an existing SMUD substation located at 4104 Northgate Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95834 in Sacramento County. This substation is surrounded by highly developed residential, commercial and industrial land uses and is situated southeast of N Market Blvd, east of Northgate Blvd & north of Interstate 80. This substation improvement project aims to enhance the capacity of the Cargo-Northgate substation within the existing substation footprint to ensure continued reliability and system capacity in response to growing energy demands in the area. The substation currently contains two transformer banks, and project improvements will be limited to upgrading the second transformer bank (Bank 2), which involves the demolition and replacement of the associated electrical infrastructure and equipment at that bank.

Construction upgrades will begin with the removal of the existing 4.69 megavolt-amperes (MVA) transformer and associated switch pole from Bank 2. All related foundations, including those for the transformer, switchgear, capacitor banks, and switch pole, will be demolished. Once site preparation is complete, new concrete foundations will be constructed to support the new 25 MVA transformer, three feeder switchgear, and three 12 kilovolt (12 kV) capacitor banks will be installed.

All work will occur within the existing substation footprint, and the total area of temporary ground disturbance is expected to be approximately 0.25 acres. The project is scheduled to begin in October 2026 and be completed by June 2027.

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), §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) and §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)
- Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Under CEQA Guidelines §15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for making the determination that a project is exempt under CEQA. SMUD has reviewed and determined that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15302 (Replacement and Reconstruction) and 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

§15301 Existing Facilities applies to projects that consist 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. Examples of this exemption include but are not limited to: (b) “Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.”

§15302 Replacement or Reconstruction applies to projects that consist 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. Examples of this exemption include but are not limited to: (d) “Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.”

§15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures applies to projects that consist of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. Examples of this exemption include but are not limited to: (d) “Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.”

Thus, the Project will involve the repair and minor alteration of an existing substation facility resulting in no change or expansion of use, the replacement of substation infrastructure in the same location and conversion of small electric facilities or structures. Therefore, no further environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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Signature

6/16/2025

Date

Sarah Ahmed

Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Lead Agency

- Signed by Lead Agency
Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____