



CEQA Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use
and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: City of Burbank
Community Development Dept.
150 North Third Street
Burbank, CA 91502

County Clerk, County of Los Angeles
P.O. Box 1208
Norwalk, CA 90651-1208

Project Title: Relocating Electrical Pole Line (T-19 Circuit) from hillside to Walnut Avenue public right-of-way

Project Location – Specific: Along Walnut Avenue, N/O N Sunset Canyon Dr. up to intersection of Lockheed Drive & Stough Canyon Avenue.

Project Location / City: Burbank

Project Location / County: Los Angeles

Description of Project: The City of Burbank Water and Power plans to relocate an electrical distribution pole line from its current position, on top of the hill west of Walnut Avenue, down to the street level on Walnut Avenue. This will involve installing approximately (15) wood poles at various locations along the public right-of-way on Walnut Avenue and installing overhead primary covered conductor to reroute the current pole line from the hill.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Burbank, Burbank Water and Power Department

Name of Project Lead: Allen Rios, Electrical Engineering Associate I

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial.
- Declared Emergency.
- Emergency Project. (Sec. 15269)
- Statutory Exemptions.
- Categorical Exemption. Sec. 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)
- Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt:

Emergency Project (Sec. 15269) – This project to relocate the existing overhead electric pole line from its current Hilltop location down to an accessible street- Walnut Avenue- is in an effort to mitigate a risk of wildfire caused by ignitions from overhead electric facilities. Currently the pole line is located on top of the hillside west of Walnut Ave. There is no access road for BWP line crews to drive up to pole line for maintenance activities, or to respond to wire-down events that occur on this section of the circuit. Additionally, the inaccessibility of the current pole-line section prohibits regular vegetation management or brush clearance activities around this section of pole-line. This increases the chance of a power-line ignited wildfire in the case of a wire-down event. Wire-down events are not uncommon in this section of the circuit, and with no access road and an untrimmed hillside, a power-line ignited wildfire in which our crew would not be able to hastily respond to is highly probable. Relocating the pole line from the top of the hill down to the accessible Walnut Ave not only mitigates wildfire since the pole line would no longer be directly above unmanaged vegetation, but in the case of a wire-down event or pole line work, BWP crews would have

access to respond quickly to the event.

Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) – This categorical exemption states “Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures... .” In the case of this pole line relocation project, the new small facilities/structures in question are a limited number of wood poles and other utility infrastructure of reasonable length that will be installed on Walnut Avenue. An example of this exemption, example (d), states, “Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.” The relocation of the hillside pole line is classified as an electrical utility extension, as the removal of the current pole line would create the necessity to build and extend the circuit/new pole line on Walnut Avenue.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Allen Rios, Electrical Engineering Associate I **Telephone/Extension:** (818) 238-3689

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: 5/21/20

Title: Federico Ramirez, Assistant Community Development Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant