

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Title: Edge Computing on Meters (ECOM)

Project Location – Specific: 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612

Project Location – City: Oakland

Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to deploy and evaluate approximately 9,000 advanced AMI 2.0 smart meters enabled with Distributed Intelligence (DI) applications at existing PG&E customer premises throughout the service territory. These DI enabled meters provide real time monitoring of grid conditions, including fault detection, transformer and service level loading, and behind the meter load characteristics. The project will involve configuring DI applications, integrating required data systems, replacing existing meters with upgraded units, and monitoring performance for at least one year. The goal is to understand whether DI enabled smart meters can improve grid reliability and public safety by detecting ignition causing faults earlier, supporting customer electrification; such as electric vehicle charging, without requiring costly electrical service upgrades, and helping defer distribution and transformer replacements. The results will help support evaluation of the feasibility, operational benefits, and cost effectiveness of a potential larger scale deployment of AMI 2.0 meters and DI applications in future rate case proceedings. This project will provide benefits for disadvantaged and low-income communities, the utility grid, and California ratepayers by reducing wildfire ignition risks, improving situational awareness, and enabling more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15302
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of use

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

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beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from CEQA. The project consists of replacing existing electric meters with AMI 2.0 enabled smart meters on several thousand customer premises within PG&E territory. Buildings in which the electric meters exist will not be structurally altered or suffer any damage as part of the meter installations. These modifications will not result in any expansion of capacity. For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under Section 15301.

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15302 provides that the 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 is categorically exempt from CEQA. This exemption includes the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Consistent with Section 15302, the project consists of installing AMI 2.0 meters in place of existing customer electric meters in various buildings within PG&E territory. The replacement meters will be installed on the same site and location as the existing meters that are to be replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing structures: the meters will provide real-time monitoring of voltage uses and insight into load management, time-of-use rates, costs, and grid flexibility and reliability. These modifications will result in negligible or no expansion of capacity to the existing meters. The proposed work therefore falls under Section 15302.

This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Public Agency

Contact Person: Sebastian Rubio Ruiz **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** _____

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: Sebastian Rubio Ruiz **Date:** 6/19/2026 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____