

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: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Project Title: Underground Cable Resilience Retrofit Project

Project Location – Specific: Various locations in Los Angeles Department of Water and Power territory

Project Location – City: Los Angeles **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will replace approximately 30 miles of 34.5kV and 4.8kV underground cable in the project area over the course of five years. These upgrades will replace aging underground infrastructure, including equipment that is past its service life and at a risk of failure. By expediting the replacement of underground infrastructure, the project will increase energy flow capacity without increasing generation capacity, and will reduce vulnerability to extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves and storms, improving overall energy reliability.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Lead Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

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, § 15302
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15302, Class 2 Categorical Exemptions, the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure is located on the same site as the structure being replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity, are categorically exempt from CEQA. Since the jobs undertaken as part of the Underground Cable Resilience Retrofit Project entails removing old, degraded cable and replacing with new cable and associated equipment in the same, existing conduit systems and substructures, these projects have been determined exempt from CEQA and no further CEQA documentation is needed.

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: Abigail Jacob **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-6325

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: Abigail Jacob **Date:** 8/18/2026 **Title:** Electric Generation System Specialist I

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____