

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: City of Burbank

Project Title: Burbank Grid Forward

Project Location – Specific: 30 circuit miles of Burbank Water and Power service territory

Project Location – City: Burbank, CA

Project Location – County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will upgrade approximately 30 circuit miles of Burbank service territory's distribution lines from 4kV to 12kV. It also will install supporting components including poles and transformers, as well as additional grid hardening equipment such as switchgear, protective relays, vaults, and conduit systems. By upgrading aging distribution lines, the project will reduce the frequency and duration of load-induced outages, decrease line losses, and increase the efficiency of energy delivery across the city. This grid modernizing measure strengthens the system's ability to withstand and quickly recover from disruptive weather events.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Burbank

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 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15304

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

14 CCR section 15301 Existing Facilities

14 CCR section 15301 provides that the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project will involve minor alteration of existing facilities by converting the existing 4 kilovolt (kV) electrical distribution system to a 12 kV system, but involves no expanding capacity beyond current service levels and will not result in significant adverse effects on sensitive environmental, biological, cultural, or historical resources within the City of Burbank service territory. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 CCR section 15301.

14 CCR section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction

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

14 CCR section 15302 provides exemption for replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure is to be located on the same site for no substantial expansion of purpose and capacity are categorically exempt from CEQA. The existing 4 kV system poles and ancillary infrastructure will be replaced in the same locations with new poles, overhead crossarms and equipment, and conductor, as needed, to accommodate clearance requirements for 12 kV voltage class. Due to the urban nature of the project location, the lack of sensitive resources, and the limitations of the work areas to the existing utility right of way, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 CCR section 15302.

14 CCR section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

14 CCR section 15304 provides exemption for minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. This project involves limited trenching in previously disturbed land including street or sidewalk areas within public rights-of-way to install underground conduits for the new 12kV poles and does not involve new ground disturbance. Prior to project completion, the trenches will be covered and compacted back to grade and will not be visible. There will be no further activities that cause environmental disturbance than the one listed above. For this reason, the project falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 CCR section 15304.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; 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: Alana Webre **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-8173

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: Alana Webre **Date:** 8/19/26 **Title:** Commission Agreement Manager

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____