Notice of Exemption **Form D**

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: Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Project Title: Anza Rural Resilience Microgrid Initiative

Project Location – Specific: 58470 Highway 371

Project Location – City: Anza 92539 **Project Location – County:** Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Anza Electric Cooperative's Anza Rural Resilience Microgrid Initiative project will expand the capacity of the pre-existing BESS supporting AEC's 3.4 MW solar PV microgrid. It will provide additional stored energy to support critical community and tribal facilities during extended outages and improve service reliability for members located in the Anza region of Riverside County, including the Cahuilla Band of Indians. By increasing available storage capacity, the project will reduce the frequency and duration of service interruptions and improve system performance during periods of high electric demand. The added BESS will also help manage peak load by storing solar generation and discharging during times of elevated system stress.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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, § 15303 ; 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 § 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 the expansion of existing facilities already being used to house a similar system, including the placement of containerized battery systems and supporting infrastructure. The expansion to the existing facilities will be less than 50% of the floor area of the existing facilities prior to the addition. The project involves no expansion of use; personnel, traffic, and general day-to-day operations will remain largely the same. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 C.C.R. § 15301.

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

14 CCR § 15303 exempts from CEQA new construction or conversion of small structures. This project involves the construction, location, and new installation of small structures and equipment in close proximity to an existing microgrid facility. Specifically, this project will consist of installing and integrating battery energy storage system that will expand the capacity of a pre-existing 3.4 MW solar PV microgrid. The installation of the energy storage will require minimal construction activity and will not have a significant impact on local air quality, noise, traffic, and odors during construction and will not induce additional operations at the site. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 CCR § 15303.

14 CCR § 15304 exempts from minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. This project involves limited trenching to allow for power and communications conduits to be placed between battery enclosures, communications cabinets, switch gear, transformers, inverters, and the substation. All trenching activity will take place on a previously disturbed area where there is currently a pole and material storage yard. 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 § 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:** **8/20/2026** **Title:** **Commission Agreement Manager**

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant** **Date received for filing at OPR:** _____

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