NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder
3636 American River Drive, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95864

From: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, B209
P.O. Box 15830
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

Lead Agency: Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project Title: SMUD Transmission Line Steel Pole Recoating Project

Project Applicant: Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 6201 S Street, MS B209, Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

Project Location: The proposed activities would occur north of S Street and Highway 50, adjacent to the Sacramento Rapid Transit (RT) tracks between Redding Avenue and 59th Street, Sacramento, CA.

Project Description: SMUD is proposing to recoat eight painted steel poles with nominal operational transmission line voltage of 115 kilovolt (kV) phase to phase. The heights of the poles are between 90 and 114 feet. The poles were originally installed in 2000 and are being recoated for maintenance and corrosion prevention and may require existing paint to be removed. The proposed project is not subject to Article 19, Section 15330 for "minor actions to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous materials or substance," because the proposed action is not undertaken to address the potential release of paints containing hazard materials (metals), but rather to perform a traditional form of maintenance and prevent further corrosion of the existing poles. The effects of the paint removal and pole repainting on the environment have been evaluated indicating the project will comply with air quality and worker exposure regulations and will have no significant adverse effects on any other resources.

One transmission pole requires all existing coating of this pole to be fully removed. The entire pole shaft and the cross arms bracket mounting area will be enclosed with scaffolding, wrapped, and all existing coating will be removed by sandblasting. For the initial refinishing of this pole, it will be necessary to remove all paint layers down to exposed steel to eliminate rust and ensure appropriate adhesion and life of the paint re-coating. All removed material will be captured with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter-equipped vacuum attachments. The material will be tested and if found to be hazardous, disposed of in a Class I controlled landfill. The remaining poles will be recoated with brushes and/or rollers. All coating and overcoat applications shall be done according to the paint manufacturer's recommendations.

All work performed for the recoating will be done with the transmission lines de-energized. The pole locations are located directly adjacent to the RT Gold Line East Sacramento corridor. The trains will remain in operation with the use of flaggers who will work cooperatively with the pole

maintenance crews. Maintenance will occur between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm Monday through Friday. The eight poles are owned by SMUD and six are located within the Sac RT right of way between Redding Avenue and 59th Street, Sacramento, CA. The eight poles will be recoated over approximately 4 weeks between mid-October and mid-November 2026.

The painting contractors will comply with all environmental regulatory requirements by capturing dust generated during paint removal with HEPA-filtered vacuum attachments and employing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control releases of paint particulates into the surrounding environment. These measures consist of laying a plastic tarp at the base of each tower to collect paint scrapings and collecting and labeling the worker clothing sent to the laundry. All contaminated wastes will be collected, sealed, and transferred to an appropriate Treatment Storage and/or Disposal Facility (TSDF). The plastic sheeting will be placed around the base of the poles at a distance of 20 feet out from the base of the poles. Additional sheeting will be used where there is the possibility of material entering storm drains or being transmitted onto adjacent properties.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Exempt Status (Check One)

Ministerial (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines §15268)	☐
Declared Emergency (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines §15269(a))	☐
Emergency Project (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(2) & (4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b)(c)(d))	☐
Categorical Exemption (CEQA PRC §21080(b)(9), 21084; CEQA Guidelines §15301(b), Existing Facilities	☒
Statutory Exemptions	☐

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: Under CEQA Guidelines §15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for making the determination that a project is exempt under CEQA. SMUD has determined that the SMUD Transmission Line Steel Pole Recoating Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities. CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities exemption applies to the "operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Examples of this exemption include but are not limited to: (b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. The SMUD Transmission Line Steel Pole Recoating Project involves maintenance of existing facilities and therefore is considered exempt in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15301(b).

The Secretary of Resources has identified general categories of projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment, including maintenance projects. Section 15300.2 of the Guidelines, however, lists the following exceptions to categorical exemption status: projects that will have significant cumulative impacts from successive activity of the same type in the same place over time, projects with significant effects due to unusual circumstances, projects that will cause damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway, projects located on a site

included on any list complied pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, and projects that will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The proposed project is not subject to Article 19, Section 15330 for "minor actions to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous materials or substance," because the proposed action is not undertaken to address the potential release of paint, but rather to perform a traditional form of maintenance and prevent further corrosion of the existing poles. The effects of the pole recoating on the environment have been evaluated indicating the project will comply with air quality and worker exposure regulations and will have no significant adverse effects on any other resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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_____	10/06/2026
Signature	Date
Ammon Rice	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Printed Name	Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency	☐
Signed by Lead Applicant	☒

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____