

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, MS H201
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

County of Sacramento Clerk/ Recorder
P.O. Box 839
Sacramento, CA 95812 -0839

County of El Dorado Clerk/ Recorder
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Lead Agency: Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project Title: Chili Bar Project (FERC Project 2155-024) Purchase

Project Proponent: Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 6201 S Street, MS H201, Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

Project Location: The Chili Bar Project is located on the South Fork American River immediately downstream of SMUD's Upper American River Project (UARP) in El Dorado County near Placerville, California.

Project Description: The activity consists of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) purchasing the Chili Bar Project from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). In addition, once the property purchase is complete SMUD will take over operation and maintenance of the Chili Bar Project.

The Chili Bar Project is located on the South Fork American River immediately downstream of SMUD's Upper American River Project (UARP) in El Dorado County near Placerville, California. The Chili Bar Project consists of a concrete gravity dam, dam spillway, a reservoir with a surface area of 110 acres and a single turbine 7 MW powerhouse. The project boundary includes all the land PG&E currently owns ranging from about 50 to 250 feet either side of the river and starting about 320 feet downstream of the project dam to about 3.2 miles upstream of the project dam. The project boundary does not include the reach downstream of the Chili Bar dam.

Operation of the Chili Bar Project will not change in response to the transfer of ownership; operation of Chili Bar Project will continue in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license number 2155-024 and the coordination agreement between the UARP and the Chili Bar Project. There will be no change in minimum and recreational flow releases to downstream reaches.

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)(4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (CEQA PRC §21083; CEQA Guidelines §15306 Information Collection)
- Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3))
- Statutory Exemptions

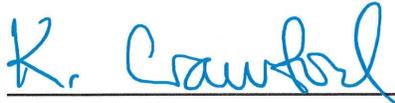
Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. In this case, the project will be operated by SMUD as it has been operated by PG&E prior to the sale, subject to both FERC licensing and a conservation easement and with no new construction occurring to integrate the project into SMUD's electrical system. No special circumstances exist that the proposed Project would create a significant adverse effect on the environment (i.e., no sensitive species or habitats, no hazardous sites, no scenic highways, no historic resources, etc.).

SMUD has reviewed the proposed Project and has identified that it qualifies for an exemption from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption) of the State CEQA Guidelines (Chapter 3 of Division 6 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations). The activity is covered by the Common Sense Exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. In this case, the project will be operated by SMUD as it has been operated by PG&E prior to the sale, subject to both FERC licensing and a conservation easement and with no new construction occurring to integrate the project into SMUD's electrical system. No special circumstances exist that the proposed Project would create a significant adverse effect on the environment (i.e., no sensitive species or habitats, no hazardous sites, no scenic highways, no historic resources, etc.). Therefore, the proposed project qualifies for the exemption under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15303(d), thus no further environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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Signature

September 5, 2019

Date

Kim Crawford

Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 06 2019
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