

## 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 B209  
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

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

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**Project Title:** Central Valley Project (CVP) Water Service Contract Conversion

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

**Project Location:** Rancho Seco Lake (14960 Twin Cities Road, Herald CA 95638) and Cosumnes Power Plant (14295 Clay East Road, Herald, CA, 95638)

**Project Description:** The original water service contract between SMUD and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was for delivery of up to 75,000 acre-feet of water per year through CVP facilities. That contract was authorized prior to the passage of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and relied upon conveyance facilities previously constructed or built in connection therewith. The water was formerly used for the now-decommissioned Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Facility and has been used at Rancho Seco Lake and the Rancho Seco property's Cosumnes Power Plant for 45 and 15 years respectively. SMUD's current interim CVP water service contract is for delivery of up to 30,000 acre-feet of water per year and, pursuant to authority delegated under SMUD Board of Directors Resolution NO. 12-12-15, will be amended and restated on essentially the same terms and conditions except that the contract will continue in effect as long SMUD pays applicable rates and charges. The place of use under the contract is the Rancho Seco property, and this contract change will not result in the foreseeable modification to or change in operation of any SMUD facility at that location.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Bureau of Reclamation

**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 §15301 Existing Facilities)

Statutory Exemptions (Authority Cited: CEQA PRC §21083, Reference: CEQA PRC §21102 and §21150; CEQA Guidelines §15261 Ongoing Project)

Not Subject to CEQA (CEQA PRC § 21065; CEQA Guidelines §15378 and §15060)

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The approved project will not trigger changes in the operations of the CVP or the delivery of water and will not trigger changes in the operation or configuration of SMUD facilities. The proposed action does not include any direct or indirect physical impacts on the environment. Under CEQA Guidelines § 15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for making the determination that a project is exempt under CEQA. Some aspects of the approved project (Rancho Seco Lake, CVP conveyance facilities, delivery of water to and use of water at the location) were approved prior to November 23, 1970 and therefore are subject to the ongoing project exemption, CEQA Guidelines § 15261. Other aspects of the approved project (Cosumnes Power Plant) were built pursuant to an approval in compliance with CEQA and are subject to the existing facilities exemption, CEQA Guidelines § 15301. In addition, the proposed action would not involve a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical impact on the environment and would not satisfy the definition of a "project" under Pub. Res. Code § 21065; CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Therefore, SMUD has determined the proposed action is exempt under CEQA Guidelines § 15060.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Kim Crawford  
SMUD Environmental Services  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6201 S Street, Mailstop B209, Sacramento, CA 95817  
P.O. Box 15830, Sacramento, CA 95852-0830  
Phone: 916-732-5063  
email: Kim.Crawford@smud.org

  
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Signature

February 28, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Kim Crawford  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Lead Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**FEB 28 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_