



CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 09/2021)

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): North Yard Energy Storage System

Project Description

The proposed project consists of the installation of a 250 kW energy storage system (ESS) at North Bus Division located at 1235 La Avenida Street in Mountain View (see attached U.S.G.S. Map). At the North Bus Division, VTA operates and performs routine maintenance on a portion of its bus fleet. The primary purpose of this project is to reduce VTA's electricity costs through energy and demand charge savings realized from charging the ESS when rates are low and discharging the ESS when rates are high. The project has the added benefits of providing additional backup power in the event of a grid outage and maximizing the utilization of renewable energy generated during the day.

The ESS will be located adjacent to the main electrical panel and PG&E meter on a concrete island. The ESS consists of 2 Sungrow System units, each with dimensions of **81.1" x 94.5" x 39.4"**. The proposed location means there will not be a need for additional trenching and disturbance beyond the immediate project area. The attached site plan shows the proposed location. No property acquisition is required for this project – VTA owns the property on which the ESS will be located.

Construction will consist of trenching to a maximum depth of 30" and is not anticipated to encounter native soils. The project will utilize a mini excavator, variable reach and other Hyster forklifts, bobcat auger, and saw cut machine. In addition, a concrete truck will be utilized for 1 day, and temporary fencing will be established around all work areas for the duration of the project.

The cost of the ESS facilities is being offset by a \$2.65 million California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP). Since the project will not be funded with federal sources, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applies, but the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination (Check one)

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- ☐ **Exempt by Statute.** Projects that the Legislature has determined should be exempted from CEQA are found either in the statute itself (PRC¹ 21080[b]; 14 CCR² 15260 et seq.) or the CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15260-15285).
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt.** Section 15303 - "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures".

The list of exemption classes begins at Section 15301 in the CEQA Guidelines.

- ☒ No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2).
- ☐ **Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** (CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)) This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that

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there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

Environmental Project Manager

Ann Calnan

Print Name

DocuSigned by:

Ann Calnan

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Signature

11/1/2021

Date

Project Manager/Engineer

Christina Jaworski

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Signature

11/1/2021

Date

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It has been determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA in 23 CFR¹ 771.117, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.118(b). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA and is included under the following:

☐ It has been determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:☐ **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)**☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)****Environmental Project Manager**_____
Print Name_____
Signature_____
Date**Project Manager/Engineer**_____
Print Name_____
Signature_____
Date

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).

¹Code of Federal Regulations



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Continuation sheet:

Affected Environment

VTA Staff has reviewed the effect of the project on aesthetics; agriculture; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; energy and greenhouse gas emissions; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; mineral resources; noise, population and housing; public services and utilities/service systems; recreation; transportation; wildfire; and construction. In addition, VTA referenced the following sources of information:

- VTA referenced the Geotracker database for hazardous materials on October 22, 2021. There are currently no open cases at the North Bus Division. In the 1980s there was an incident of soil and groundwater contamination at the site due to a diesel leak. At the time, VTA's predecessor, the Santa Clara County Transit District, conducted a comprehensive remediation clean-up of the yard and satisfied all requirements established by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The remaining residual soil and groundwater contamination are no longer considered hazardous to human health.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps were referenced and the project is in a levee protected area. This means that the presence of levees provides a critical function in flood control but are not an absolute guarantee in preventing flooding.
<https://mtc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4a6f3f1259df42eab29b35dfcd086fc8>

- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments' Hazard Viewer Maps were referenced and showed the project is at a moderate risk of earthquake liquefaction susceptibility and a severe earthquake shaking hazard.

- The Regional Water Quality Control Board's list of Clean Water Act 303d impaired water bodies was referenced. No water bodies are immediately adjacent to the project site. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2018state_ir_reports_final/apx_d_cat_reports/category5_report.shtml



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- After reviewing cultural documentation, it was found that the project site was not located on or adjacent to any historic resources listed in the National Register of Historical Places or California Register of Historical Resources.

Environmental Determination

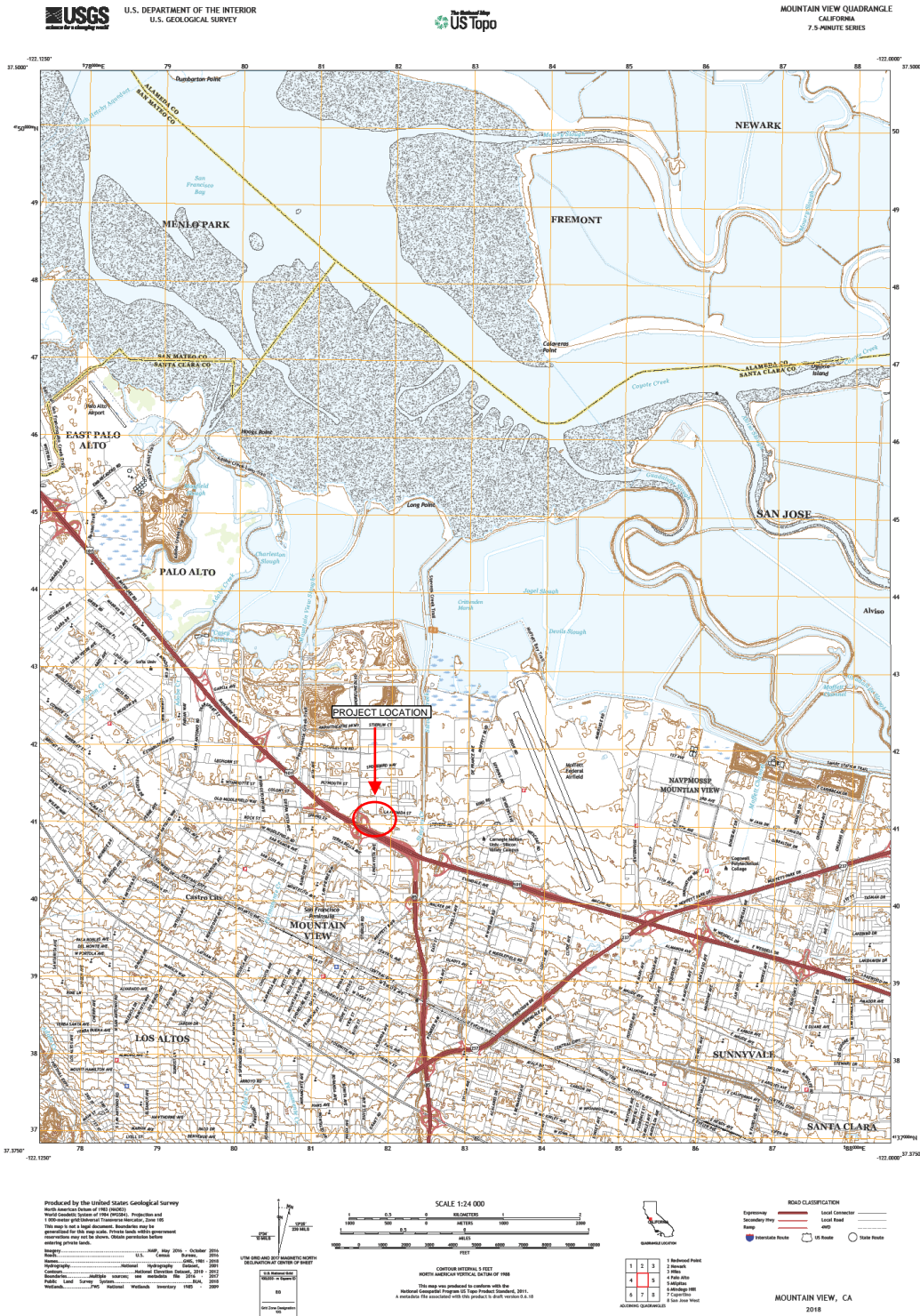
Based on review of the environmental effects of this project, it has been determined that impacts will not be significant, and the project is eligible for a Categorical Exemption under Section 15303 of CEQA Guidelines. This Categorical Exemption refers to "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures", which "consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures".

In construction documents it is recommended that the following general/special conditions be included:

- Battery: Keep Fire Extinguisher D on site. For small scale fires to the batteries directly, type D is recommended. No other additional equipment for battery fires is required either on site or by Mountain View Fire Department (MVFD). Large quantities of water and standard protective gear would be used by MVFD in the case of a battery fire.
- Soil Testing: In the instance the contractor performs any soil disturbance, testing and analysis of soil should be conducted for the purpose of proper disposal.
- Discovery of archaeological or human remains: Should any archaeological or historical artifacts or skeletal material be discovered or unearthed during construction activities, all work within ten meters of the find shall be halted. Contractor, Subcontractor, Engineer or inspector as appropriate, shall immediately notify VTA, and VTA will initiate procedures in accordance with 36 CFR 800.11, California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, and Santa Clara County Ordinance Code Sections B6-16 through B6-23. Construction activities within ten meters of the find shall remain halted until authorization is obtained from VTA that construction in the vicinity of the find may resume.
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Project will be responsible for compliance with VTA requirements regarding Stormwater Pollution Prevention, including the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's), and compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements.



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Location at North Bus Division

