

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

CONTACT: Patricia Diep, Project Manager
City of Fresno – Capital Projects Department
747 R Street, 2nd Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-621-8836
Email: Patricia.Diep@Fresno.gov

PROJECT TITLE: Upgrade Reclamation Well Power Poles 15KV Line
Separation

PROJECT LOCATION: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF)
5607 W. Jensen Ave.
Fresno, CA 93706

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To upgrade the existing reclamation power lines in the ponding area near the RWRF to provide space to protect raptors by bringing the power lines into compliance with the requirements of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). This work includes installing 8-foot wood cross arms on 115 power poles to separate the power conductors that replicate PG&E avian protection standards.

The Project is exempt under Sections 15301/Class 1 and 15302/Class 2 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Under Section 15301/Class 1 for Existing Facilities, projects are exempt from CEQA when they consist of 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. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use. Examples include but are not limited to existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.

Under Section 15302/Class 2 for Replacement or Reconstruction, projects are exempt from CEQA when they consist of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced,

including, but not limited to replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

The project described herein represents the recommended upgrade of the existing reclamation well power poles 15KV line separation at the RWRF. The project will not expand the use of the existing facility, nor will it relocate any existing facilities or structures. Additionally, the project only seeks to replace parts of existing structures. The new parts will be located on the same site and will serve the same purpose and capacity as the parts being replaced. The project consists of all minor alterations required for the existing reclamation well power poles at the RWRF. This includes crossarm assembly of 8-foot wood cross arms on 115 power poles, insulation of the wires, modifying the conductor to separate the wires for safety purposes, and increasing vertical and horizontal spacing of the exiting 15KV power lines in the ponding area. These changes will bring the spacing into compliance with PG&E avian protection standards and will protect the RWRF power distribution system.

As such, the replacement and upgrade work of the existing reclamation well power poles 15 KV line separation at the RWRF is exempt under Sections 15301/Class 1 and 15302/Class 2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, apply:

(a) Location

Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. None of the applicable classes apply to this project, thus this exception to the exemptions does not apply to this project.

(b) Cumulative Impact

The Project will not have a cumulative negative impact over time that is significant from successive projects of the same type in the same place. The Project merely entails replacement work at an existing facility.

(c) Significant Effect

The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. All work will be limited to repairing and replacing components

of existing facility at the RWRF. There are no unusual circumstances present for this project.

(d) Scenic Highways

The Project will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The Project is not located near scenic highways.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites

The Project is not located on a hazardous waste site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources

The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The existing facilities at the RWRF are not considered historical resources.

Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Date: April 10, 2024

Prepared by: Patricia Diep