

## **Notice of Exemption**

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**  
The Trustees of The California State University  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**County of:** Monterey  
168 W Alisal Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Project Title:** Gas Distribution System Capacity and Reliability Project

**Project Applicant:** California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

**Project Location - Specific:** CSUMB Campus within the East Campus Housing Area bound to the north by Imjin Parkway and south by Inter-Garrison Road, along Schoonover Rd, Edde Ct, Jackson Ct, Henson Ct, White Ct, Combs Ct, Sherman Ct, Holovits Ct, and Scott Ct Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) APN 031-101-032-000

**Project Location – City:** N/A, unincorporated Monterey County land

**Project Location – County:** Monterey

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) proposes to upgrade the natural gas distribution system within the East Campus Housing area to reduce threats to the distribution system's integrity and improve public safety and system reliability. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace approximately 9,816 feet (ft) of gas distribution main and 93 existing gas services of various diameter Aldyl "A" plastic gas pipeline with new Polyethylene plastic pipeline for the operation and maintenance of natural gas facilities for the existing East Campus Housing Area. Please refer to **Attachment A, CEQA Supporting Documentation**, for additional project description information.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** The Trustees of The California State University

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** CSUMB

**Exempt Status (check one):**

- Ministerial** (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency** (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project:** Sec. 21080(b)(4) and 15269(b) and (c)

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: Section 15301(b) and (d); Section 15202(c); 15304(f)
- ☒ **Statutory Exemptions.** State code number: 15269(c)
- ☒ **Common Sense Exemption** (Sec. 15063(b)(3))

**Reasons why the project is exempt:**

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) proposes to upgrade the natural gas distribution system within the East Campus Housing Area. The proposed project involves using trenchless horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and open trenching methods to access, cut, purge, seal, and replace the gas line. As a result, implementation of the proposed project would not require extensive site preparation. The proposed project would require implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in the Biological Resources Report (**Attachment B, Biological Resources Report**) and measures required by In 2020, PG&E's *Multiple Region Operation and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan* (MRHCP), which is a multiple species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for routine operation and maintenance activities in 34 California counties, including the County of Monterey. These measures would avoid and reduce potential impacts to sensitive biological resources in the project area.

- Section 21080(b)(4) and 15269(b) and (c): The proposed project would reduce threats to the distribution system's integrity and improve public safety and system reliability. In October 2011, PG&E made a commitment to begin replacing more than 1,200 miles of plastic gas piping, manufactured by DuPont before 1973 under the name Aldyl-A, across California due to its history of cracking and failing. This replacement program was prompted after a leaky plastic gas pipe sparked a fire at a Cupertino, CA condominium complex. The project involves emergency repairs to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety, or welfare, which is necessary to prevent and mitigate an emergency.
- Sections 15301(b) and (d): The proposed project involves the repair and maintenance of existing publicly-owned facilities to provide natural gas and restoration of deteriorated facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety. The proposed project would not involve the expansion of use of any existing facilities.
- Section 15302(c): The proposed project involves the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities where the new facilities will be located on the same site as the facility replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the facility replaced. The project would replace and reconstruct existing gas lines involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.
- Section 15304(i): The proposed project would require minor alterations to land. The HDD method would result in approximately 1,196 square feet (sf) (0.027 acre) of ground disturbance and the open trench method would result in approximately 1,024 sf (0.024 acre) of ground disturbance, resulting in a total area of approximately 2,220 sf (0.051

acre) of ground disturbance. The implementation of the identified avoidance and minimization measures identified in the Biological Resources Report and PG&E's MRHCP would avoid and reduce potential impacts to sensitive biological species, and would not result in any take of listed species. No healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed as part of this project.

- Under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), Review for Exemption (14 CCR Sec. 15061(b)(3)), activities are exempt from, and otherwise not subject to, CEQA under the "common sense" exemption where 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 proposed project would not result in any significant effects on the environment. A biological assessment was completed for the proposed project and determined no significant impacts to sensitive biological resources would occur with the implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in the Biological Resources Report and PG&E's MRHCP (**Attachment A** and **Attachment B**).

The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Sec. 65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew S. McCluney, CSUMB Assoc. Dir. of Campus Planning

**Area Code/Telephone/Email:** 831.582.4721/[mmccluney@csumb.edu](mailto:mmccluney@csumb.edu)

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  
 Yes       No

**Signature:**

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

  
Julie Myrick (Jul 7, 2023 12:30 PDT)

07/07/2023

Authority cited: Public Resources Code Section 21083 and 21110, Public Resources code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

**Attachment A: CEQA Supporting Documentation**

**Attachment B: Biological Resources Report**