



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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Steve J. Bestolarides

San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: aambriz



Final Approval Date: August 14, 2026
Case No.: 2024-002876ENV
Project Title: Transmission Line Clearance Mitigation Moderate and Low Risk Project
County: Various
Lead Agency: San Francisco Planning Department
Project Applicant: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Environmental Management
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To:	County Clerk, City and County of San Francisco City Hall Room 160 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102	State of California Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
	County Clerk, Tuolumne County 2 South Green Street Sonora, CA 95370	County Clerk, Stanislaus County 1021 I Street, Suite 101 Modesto, CA 95354
	County Clerk, San Joaquin County 44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 260 Stockton, CA 95202	County Clerk, Alameda County 1106 Madison Street Oakland, CA 94607

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Guidelines of the Secretary for Resources, and San Francisco requirements, this Notice of Exemption is transmitted to you for filing. At the end of the posting period, please return this Notice to the Staff Contact with a notation of the period it was posted.

Attached fee: County Clerk, City and County of San Francisco, \$86 filing fee
County Clerk, Tuolumne County, \$100 filing fee
County Clerk, Stanislaus County, \$57 filing fee
County Clerk, San Joaquin County, \$50 filing fee
County Clerk, Alameda County, \$50 filing fee

Project Description

The SFPUC owns and operates the Hetch Hetchy Power System which includes three hydroelectric powerhouses. Hydroelectricity generated at these facilities is delivered using SFPUC-Hetch Hetchy-owned transmission lines within its 168-mile rights-of-way to a PG&E substation in the city of Newark where the power is passed through to San Francisco. The SFPUC's transmission facilities consist of 11 transmission lines and are located within Tuolumne, Mariposa, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Alameda counties. To ensure sufficient clearance between the conductors and the ground, SFPUC would conduct one of the following at over 100 locations (locations may have multiple towers) along the transmission lines:

- *Limited Grading/Site Clearing*: Limited grading beneath the conductors (power lines) to increase the clearance distance between the ground and power lines.
- *Increase Tension*: Increasing tension on existing power lines to raise conductors to meet requirements on sections between dead-end towers.
- *Insulator Replacement (Floating Dead-ends)*: Replacing existing insulators on the arms of the tower from a vertical suspension to a horizontal orientation.
- *Insulated Crossarms*: Replacing the tower arms with a high-strength insulator assembly that allows for the power lines to be raised up just underneath the arms
- *Tower Raises*: Increasing the height of the tower and thus the transmission lines
- *Tower Replacement*: Replace the existing tower with a taller tower
- *New Midspan Tower*: Constructing a new mid-span tower in-line with the existing transmission alignment to raise up the existing power line(s)
- *Reconductor*: Replacing the power lines with new High-Temperature Low-Sag power lines (reconductor)
- *Hybrid Solutions*: Implementing a combination of one or more of the above solutions.

The overall work area would be up to an approximate 50-foot perimeter outside the base of each tower. Staging areas would likely be accommodated within the existing SFPUC rights-of-way and would center around the various tower locations. The staging areas would be used for storage of materials, construction vehicles, equipment, worker facilities, and dumpsters to temporarily store discarded materials.

The project construction is anticipated to start in early 2027. Construction of the entire project would require a total of approximately 36 months. The work duration at each individual tower location will vary depending on the type of mitigation strategy pursued and could range from a few days for grading to six weeks for tower replacement or installation of a mid-span structure.

Determination

The City and County of San Francisco decided to carry out or approve the project on July 14, 2026 when the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission awarded a design and construction contract for the Transmission Line Clearance Mitigation Moderate and Low Risk Project. The project was officially approved on August 14, 2026 when no appeal of the exemption was filed during the 30-day appeal period. A copy of the documents may be examined at the Planning Department, 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA, 94103 in file no. 2024-002876ENV.

1. Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____
- ☐ Community Plan Exemption (Sec. 21083.3; 15183)
- ☒ Other: CEQA Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)

- 2. Reason for Determination:** This project in its approved form has been determined to be exempt from environmental review because it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.



For Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer

August 14, 2026
Date

cc:
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Environmental
Management
Other interested parties

Date Received for filing at LCI: