



September 5, 2023

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

El Rio Substation Project

SMUD has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for the El Rio Substation Project (hereafter the “project”), which analyzes the potential physical environmental effects associated with project implementation. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (Section 15072), SMUD has prepared this Notice of Intent (NOI) to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with written notice of the availability of the Draft IS/MND and to invite comments and concerns regarding environmental issues associated with the proposed project.

Project location: The proposed project site is a rural area of Sacramento County on the southwest corner of Elverta Road and El Rio Avenue in the census-designated place of Elverta, California. It consists of the 5.5-acre existing Elverta Substation and the 4.4-acre property to the east, as well as the transmission easement to the north.

Cortese List: Section 15087 (c)(6) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that this notice disclose whether the project site is listed on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List). No portion of the proposed project site is on the Cortese List.

Project overview: SMUD is proposing the construction and operation of a new substation and decommissioning and removal of outdated equipment at the existing Elverta Substation. The proposed El Rio Substation would include new transformers and circuit breakers, a control building, paved access, fencing, lighting, stormwater drainage, stormwater retention basin, and utilities. North of the substation, two existing electrical towers carrying 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines would be replaced with two or three steel monopoles (also known as steel tubular poles) to tie the substation into the existing grid. Following the energization of the proposed El Rio Substation, the existing Elverta Substation would be decommissioned, and the outdated substation equipment dismantled and removed from the site. Project construction is anticipated to begin during the first quarter of 2025 and would be completed by late 2026, involving active construction for approximately 24 months, and 3 months to decommission the Elverta Substation.

Public review period: A 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND will begin on September 5, 2023, and extend through October 5, 2023, for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND can be emailed to **Ammon.Rice@smud.org** or sent to:

Ammon Rice
SMUD Environmental Services
P.O. Box 15830 MS B209
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

Document availability: The Draft IS/MND is available at **smud.org/CEQA**. Printed copies may be viewed during normal business hours at these locations:

SMUD
Customer Service Center
6301 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

SMUD
East Campus Operations Center
4401 Bradshaw Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

Public meeting: SMUD will hold a public meeting regarding the Draft IS/MND at 5:30 p.m. on September 26, 2023, at SMUD Headquarters, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95817 to provide information and invite comments on the proposed project. The meeting can be attended in person or virtually. Please go to **smud.org/CEQA** for meeting and registration information.

SMUD Board of Directors adoption: The project will be presented to the Board for consideration at the SMUD Energy Resources and Customer Service Committee (ERCS) meeting and the SMUD Board of Directors meeting, at which the public and responsible agencies may make comments. Both meetings will be held at the SMUD Headquarters Auditorium, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817 if conditions permit. Otherwise, the meetings will be held online. Please note that the Board can only take action during a SMUD Board of Directors meeting, so no action will be taken at the ERCS meeting.

Please go to **smud.org/Corporate/About-us/Company-Information/Board-Meetings** for further information on meeting schedules and agenda items, including this project.

We appreciate your time and effort in reviewing the Draft IS/MND. Your comments will be considered when making decisions about this project.

If you have questions, please email me at **Ammon.Rice@smud.org** or call me at **916-732-7466**.

Sincerely,



Ammon Rice
SMUD Environmental Services

Proposed project site

