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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Date: October 4, 2023

To: Agencies and Interested Parties

Lead Agency: Sacramento Municipal Utility District 6201 S Street, MS B203 Sacramento, CA 95817-1899 Contact: Rob Ferrera at (916) 732-6676

**Subject:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report: Station J Bulk Transmission Substation Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2023020549)

Review Period: October 4, 2023 to November 17, 2023

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Station J Bulk Transmission Substation Project (Project), located in downtown Sacramento. The Project would involve the construction and operation of the Station J Substation, which would include up to five 40 megavolt-amperes (MVA) 115/21 kV transformers to serve the SMUD network as part of SMUD's goal for the project to provide consistent and reliable electrical service to much of downtown Sacramento through the effective use of SMUD's existing assets.

**Project Location:** The project would be located on a 10.3-acre site at 1220 North B Street in a developed area of downtown Sacramento (Exhibit 1). Primary access to the project site would be provided from North B Street. The project site encompasses 11 contiguous parcels bordered by North B Street to the north, North 14th Street to the east, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks to the south, and North 12th Street to the west.

**Project Description:** The Station J Bulk Transmission Substation Project includes construction and operation of a new substation housing electrical equipment, including power transformers, gas insulated equipment, and a control building. Station J would include up to five 40 MVA 115/21 kV transformers to serve the SMUD network. Initial installation of two 40 MVA transformers is anticipated to occur by 2030. The project would also include up to 7 miles of overhead and underground 115kV and 21kV connections into the substation from nearby existing SMUD facilities and infrastructure. The site also includes space for expansion as future needs are identified.

Primary access to the project site during construction and operation would be provided by existing driveways the project site from North B Street and North 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The proposed substation site was most recently owned and operated by General Produce. All existing on-site structures would be demolished.

The duration of construction is anticipated to last approximately 2 years. The construction workforce is expected to arrive at the project site between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and leave the site between approximately 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for most of the project construction period. Materials would generally be delivered outside of the peak morning and afternoon traffic hours to the extent feasible and would be delivered to the designated receiving area.

SMUD anticipates that the Board of Directors would consider the project at a hearing in winter 2024. Please visit <u>www.smud.org/stationi</u> for updates. Permit applications would be submitted to regulatory agencies to prepare for project construction in 2027. SMUD anticipates the project would become operational in 2030.

**Significant Environmental Effects Anticipated:** The Draft EIR identified significant or potentially significant effects associated with air quality; cultural resources, Tribal cultural resources; geology and soils (paleontological resources); hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; and transportation. After implementation of recommended mitigation measures, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

**Cortese-Listed Sites:** Section 15087 (c)(6) of the State 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). As noted in the Draft EIR, two sites were identified for the project site in DTSC's EnviroStor database (DTSC 2022a) and no underground storage tank sites in the project area are identified on the Cortese List (CalEPA 2019). Therefore, the regulatory database (Cortese) search did not identify any known hazardous wastes sites.

**Document Availability:** The Draft EIR is available on SMUD's website at <u>www.smud.org/stationj</u>

Printed copies may be reviewed during normal business hours at the following location:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District Customer Service Center 6301 S Street Sacramento, CA 95817

**Public Meeting:** A public meeting will be held on October 24, 2023, to receive input from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR. The meeting will occur at 5:30. at SMUD Headquarters 6201 St Street, Sacramento, CA 95817 The meeting can be attended in person or virtually. Please visit <u>www.smud.org/stationi</u> for information on how to join the virtual meeting.

**Comment Period:** Written comments should be submitted to SMUD Environmental Services, P.O. Box 15830 MS B203, Sacramento, CA 95852-0830, Attn: Rob Ferrera; or Rob.Ferrera@smud.org by 5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2023. For more information on the project, please contact Rob Ferrera at (916) 732-6676 or visit <u>www.smud.org/stationj</u>.





