



EXAMPLE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerks, Counties of Sonoma, Marin, and Napa **From:** San Andreas Transit Agency

Project Title: Electric Vehicles and Data Collection Project

Project Location: The following locations have been identified at existing facilities in California for participation in this proposed technology demonstration project: 1) 123 Sample Lane, Glen Ellen, CA, Sonoma County; 2) 321 Environmental Court, Mill Valley, CA, Marin County; 3) 467 Sky St., St. Helena, CA, Napa County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The San Andreas Transit Agency has partnered with an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to test and deploy heavy duty battery electric vehicles (HDBEV) and zero emission on-road and off-road equipment, and install onsite energy efficiency measures at five warehouse or freight facilities. The project is expected to include the following activities at the five facilities:

123 Sample Lane, Glen Ellen, CA: 1) Test and deploy four Smith heavy duty battery electric vehicles (HDBEVs), two battery electric vehicle (BEV) yard tractors, and 10 BEV forklifts; and 2) install one megawatt (MW) of solar panels, one 150 kilowatt (kW) charger, two 50 kW chargers, 12 Level 2 chargers for equipment, and one new transformer and electrical conduit and conduct minor trenching and restoration of any disturbed surface as necessary.

321 Environmental Court, Mill Valley, CA, Marin County: 1) Test and deploy seven commercial Class 8 HDBEVs for rental; and 2) install one 150 kW charger, two 50 kw chargers, one 80 kw mobile charger, and one new transformer and electrical conduit and conduct minor trenching and restoration of any disturbed surface as necessary.

467 Sky St., St. Helena, CA, Napa County: 1) Test and deploy one Smith HDBEV (pilot), eight commercial Class 8 HDBEVs for rental, and one Class 3 BEVs; and 2) install one 150 kw charger, four 50 kW chargers, two 80 kW mobile chargers, five Level 2 workplace chargers, and one new transformer and electrical conduit and conduct minor trenching and restoration of any disturbed surface as necessary.

The locations affected by the proposed project are at existing facilities located in industrial and commercial areas, which have already been graded, disturbed, paved, and have existing structures. The HDBEV and zero emission on-road and off-road equipment will replace service currently provided by diesel powered equipment. Installation and deployment of the charging infrastructure would require limited alteration activities such as minor trenching for electrical conduit, delivery and placement of prefabricated electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment, and minor paving and concrete activities to restore the disturbed surfaces and installation of solar panels will occur on top of existing facilities. Additionally, onboard data collectors will collect data (vehicle miles travelled, hours of operation, battery performance, etc.) on each truck and equipment. The information collected through the project will measure performance and provide data to help further research into electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure.

Public Agency Approving Project:

Agency Carrying Out Project:



F-gas Reduction Incentive Program (FRIP) Guidelines
 Attachment G: CEQA Notice of Exemption Example
 August 7, 2020



San Andreas Transit Agency

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Exempt Status:

- CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(a) – Existing Facilities
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(d) – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(f) – Minor Alterations to Land
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt: San Andreas Transit Agency staff has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) - General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 - Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. In addition, San Andreas Transit Agency staff contacted planning staff at each planning department with jurisdiction over the EV Charging sites and each treat these installations as ministerial (e.g., exempt from CEQA review). San Andreas Transit Agency staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project to develop and demonstrate zero emission heavy-duty trucks, freight handling equipment, EV infrastructure and renewable energy may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. The project is also considered to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(a) – Existing Facilities, because the proposed project involves only minor physical modifications or alterations to existing facilities involving electrical conveyances. Further, because implementation of the project may also involve improvements to electrical extensions and installation of solar panels on top of existing facilities requiring new construction or the conversion of small structures, the project is also considered to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(d) – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. Similarly, because the project may involve minor trenching and backfilling where the surface will be restored, as well as solar panel installation on top of existing facilities, the project is also considered to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(f) – Minor Alterations to Land. Finally, because the overarching purpose of the project is to conduct research for the purpose of collecting data on the use of electric vehicles and EV charging units, the project is also considered to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection. Further, staff has determined that there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA.

Date of Project Approval: San Andreas Transit Agency Governing Board Hearing: March 18, 2019

CEQA Contact Person: **Phone Number:** **Email:** **Fax:**

Rule Contact Person: **Phone Number:** **Email:** **Fax:**

Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** _____

Giulia Patton, San Andreas Transit Agency,
 CEQA Section