

Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Document Filed With: County Clerk County of Los Angeles, 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650			
From (Public Agency):		Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Authority	
Project Title:		LA-RICS Long Term Evolution (LTE) System – Site SCEMERC2	
Project Applicant:		LA-RICS Authority, 2525 Corporate Place, #200, Monterey Park, CA 91754	
Facility Name:		SCE Merced Substation-2 (SCEMERC2)	Facility Type: Private
Project Description: (Technical Specifications)		<p>Development of this site would include the installation of a new up to 70-foot-tall monopole, with an up to 25-foot lightning rod, for a total height of 95 feet above ground level (AGL). The proposed monopole would support up to 12 LTE panels, four panels installed on each of three T-arms. The T-arms would be installed 120 degrees apart at the same elevation near the top of the monopole. The proposed monopole would require a foundation up to 36 feet deep. Up to six equipment cabinets would be installed at the site, each up to 28 inches wide by 28 inches deep by 72 inches high, mounted together on a new concrete pad. The equipment cabinets would be used to store electronics and batteries for the site. The site would be equipped with an up to 35kW diesel generator with an up to 300-gallon fuel tank, also mounted on a concrete pad. Other project features could include new block walls or fence up to 12 feet tall surrounding the monopole, equipment cabinets, generator, and fuel tank. Trenching for power and fiber (typically up to two feet wide and up to four feet deep) and installation of lighting, signage, and other ancillary features would also be required. Total ground disturbance for all activity at the site would not exceed 3,600 square feet, of which up to 800 square feet would be new impervious surfaces created to support the monopole foundation as well as the concrete pad(s) that would support the equipment cabinets, generator, and fuel tank.</p>	
Jurisdiction Location:		City of West Covina	County Location: Los Angeles
Site Address:		1347 S. Azusa Ave., West Covina, CA 91791 Nearest Cross St: E Francisquito Avenue	
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:		<p>The LA-RICS LTE system is a modern, wireless voice and data communications system designed and built to serve law enforcement, fire service, health service, and public works professionals throughout Los Angeles County. The LTE system would provide day-to-day communications within and among agencies and allow seamless interagency communications when responding to routine, emergency, and catastrophic events. It would emergency responders high-speed access to life-saving multimedia information and would support the National Broadband Initiative. It would support more than 80 public safety agencies represented by approximately 34,000 first responders and 17,000 secondary responders serving more than 10 million residents, tourists, and commuters in the region.</p>	
Name of Public Agency Approving Project:		LA-RICS Authority	
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:		LA-RICS Authority	
Exempt Status:		Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303, 15304, 15332 Exempt	
Reasons Why the Project Is Exempt:		<p>Categorical Exemption Findings: The project qualifies under Section 15303 because it consists of construction of a limited number of new, small facilities. In addition to the new monopole, only equipment cabinets, a generator with fuel tank, fencing / walls, and minor appurtenances would be constructed. No new occupied structures would be constructed.</p> <p>The project qualifies under Section 15304 because the project would result in no more than 3,600 square feet of temporary ground disturbance, no native vegetation would be altered, and no waters would be affected. In addition, no healthy mature scenic trees would be removed.</p> <p>The project qualifies under Section 15332. While the project is subject to and will comply with applicable Los Angeles County zoning ordinances, it is located within an incorporated city. The project work area is less than 0.1 acre and is surrounded by urban uses. No habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species is supported at the project site. Once construction is completed, staffing would consist of monthly maintenance visits to the site, so traffic and air quality impacts would not be significant. Noise created by emergency use and maintenance testing of on-site generators would be attenuated to background levels by use of concrete masonry walls. Construction of the site would be subject to application of best</p>	

management practices and construction management requirements that would avoid impacts to any nearby waters. The project would not require use of water nor would it generate any wastewater. The only utility required by the project is electricity. Commercial power is available at or adjacent to the site.			
Lead Agency Contact Person:	Susy Orellana-Curtiss	Contact Telephone No.	(323) 881-8292
Alternate Agency Contact:	Nancy Yang	Alternate Contact No.	(323) 881-8049
Signature:	<i>James W. S. for Susy Orellana-Curtiss</i>	Date:	<i>06/15/2020</i>
		Title:	Administrative Chief