

## Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Palm Springs Unified School District  
150 District Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264

County Clerk

County of: Riverside

(Address)

Project Title: PV Carport Systems at Multiple District Sites

Project Applicant: Palm Springs Unified School District

Project Location - Specific:

Rio Vista ES (67700 Verona Rd, Cathedral City, CA 92234);

Mt. San Jacinto HS (30800 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City, CA 92234)

Project Location - City: Cathedral City

Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Purpose of the project is to install solar carport systems at Rio Vista ES and Mt. San Jacinto HS to generate electricity and offset utility costs and provide economic savings to the District. The beneficiaries of this project will be students, staff, and the community served by Palm Springs USD.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Palm Springs Unified School District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ 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 Exemptions. State code number: 21080.35

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code section 21080.35 provides a statutory exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for the installation of a solar energy system at an existing parking lot, so long as the associated equipment does not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface. Both of the proposed projects meet this criteria and are eligible for an exemption.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Julie Arthur

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 760-883-2710

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Julie Arthur

Date: 5/29/19

Title: Exec Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 29 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2011

REGULAR MEETING  
May 28, 2019 3:00 PM  
District Administration Center  
Board Room  
150 District Center Drive  
Palm Springs, CA

CLOSED SESSION - 3:00 PM  
STUDY SESSION - 4:30 PM  
REGULAR SESSION - 6:00 PM

Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
MAY 29 2019  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Agenda Item: **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018/2019-36, FILING A CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION LOAN APPLICATION FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AT MT. SAN JACINTO HIGH SCHOOL AND RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (OE-12.9)**

Rationale: The Palm Springs Unified School District ("District") Board of Education ("Board") desires to develop energy efficient practices and upgrades in the District. To improve energy efficient practices and reduce the District's energy costs, the Board plans to install solar photovoltaic generation facilities on carports in the parking lots at Mt. San Jacinto High School and Rio Vista Elementary School ("Projects") with an estimated cost of \$2,000,000.

The California Energy Commission provides loans to schools, hospitals, local governments, special districts and public care institutions to finance energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects through The Energy Conservation Assistance Act ("ECAA") program which is authorized by Public Resources Code section 25410 et. seq. The ECAA authorizes loans up to \$3,000,000 and requires that the balance of the loan be repaid with energy cost savings within the effective useful life of the project equipment or within 20 years, whichever is less. Payments begin upon completion of the project and the loans must be paid in full in no more than 40 equal semiannual payments. The estimated first year energy cost savings will set the total annual repayment amount.

As part of the loan application process, the Projects will be noted, under Public Resources Code section 20180.35, which provides a statutory exemption from the California Environmental Act ("CEQA") for the installation of a solar energy system at an existing parking lot, so long as the associated equipment does not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15303 which provides a Class 3 Categorical Exemption from CEQA for the construction and location of new, small facilities or structures and the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures including accessory or appurtenant structures.

Staff requests that the Board delegate authority to the Superintendent, or designee to execute in the name of the District all necessary documents to apply for an energy efficiency loan from the California Energy Commission for the solar photovoltaic systems at Mt. San Jacinto High School and Rio Vista Elementary Schools.

**Recommended Motion:** The Administration recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2018/2019-36, Filing a California Energy Commission Loan Application for Solar Photovoltaic Systems at Mt. San Jacinto High School and Rio Vista Elementary School as presented.

**Financial Impact:** None

**PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FILING A CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION LOAN APPLICATION FOR  
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AT MT. SAN JACINTO HIGH SCHOOL AND  
RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018/2019-36**

**WHEREAS**, the California Energy Commission provides loans to schools, hospitals, local governments, special districts, and public care institutions to finance energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects. Palm Springs Unified School District (District) Board of Education (Board) desires to develop energy efficient practices and upgrades in the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Energy Commission provides loans through The Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) program which is authorized by Public Resources Code section 25410 et. seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the ECAA program authorizes loans up to \$3,000,000 and requires that the balance of the loan be repaid with energy cost savings within the effective useful life of the project equipment or within 20 years, whichever is less. Payments begin upon completion of the project, and the loan must be paid in full in no more than 40 equal semiannual payments. The estimated first year energy cost savings will set the total annual repayment amount; and

**WHEREAS**, to improve energy efficient practices and reduce the District's energy costs, the Board plans to install solar photovoltaic generation facilities primarily on carports in parking lots at the Mt. San Jacinto High and Rio Vista Elementary schools with an estimated cost of \$2,000,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code section 21080.35 provides a statutory exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for the installation of a solar energy system at an existing parking lot, so long as the associated equipment does not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface; and

**WHEREAS**, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15303 provides a Class 3 categorical exemption from CEQA for the construction and location of new, small facilities or structures and the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures, including accessory or appurtenant structures; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board authorizes the Superintendent to apply for an energy efficiency loan from the California Energy Commission to implement renewable energy projects at Mr. San Jacinto High and Rio Vista Elementary Schools; and

**AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this Board finds that the activity funded by the loan is exempt pursuant to a statutory exemption as defined in Public Resources Code section 21080.35 and a categorical

exemption as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines; and

**AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that if recommended for funding by the California Energy Commission, the Board authorizes the Palm Springs Unified School District to accept a loan up to \$2,000,000; and

**AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the amount of the loan will be paid in full, under the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, Promissory Note and Tax Certificate of the California Energy Commission; and

**AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the Palm Springs Unified School District all necessary documents to implement and carry out the purpose of this resolution, and to undertake all actions necessary to undertake and complete the project described in this resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of Palm Springs Unified School District, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019, by the following vote:

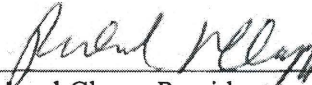
AYES: President, Clapp, and Members, Cornett, Gerardi, Gerrell, Wood

NOES: None

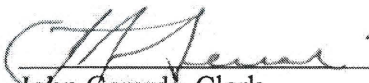
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

By:   
Richard Clapp, President  
Board of Education

ATTEST:

  
John Gerardi, Clerk  
Board of Education

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 29 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE