

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-45
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Marsha Habib

Project Title: 25 HP Direct Solar Irrigation Pumping System + EV charger
9 KW Solar + 20KWh storage standalone Office/packing house system

Project Location – Specific: 833 Los Viboras Rd. (Parcel # 016-150-022)

Project Location – City: Hollister

Project Location – County: San Benito

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will install two off-grid ground-mounted solar photovoltaic energy systems to provide power for an existing on-site electric irrigation pump and a small building, two new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, and a battery storage system. System 1 includes two approximately 56-foot long, 27 kilowatt arrays and an EV charger located on the northwest side of the property on the roundabout made by the access roads. System 1 will power the well irrigation pump and EV charger. System 2 includes an approximately 32-foot long, 9 kilowatt array with 20-kilowatt-hour battery system located at the southwest end of the farm on an existing employee parking lot. System 2 will power the adjacent office and storage/packing house and new EV charger. The EV charging stations will serve electric farm carts. Installation of the solar energy systems will require some minor grading, trenching, and compaction of conduit runs to connect the well pump conduit, control panel, and EV charging stations. The project will be constructed to avoid impacts to harvesting and farming activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marsha Habib

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §§ 15301, 15304, and 15311
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number. Pub. Resources Code section 21080.35

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code section 21080.35: The project involves installation of a solar energy system on the parking lot that has existed for over two years. The equipment will enable the generation and use of solar energy to power the small building, backup battery and EV charger. Associated equipment will not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface.

The project does not require a federal Clean Water Act permit; waste discharge requirements under Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act; individual take permit; streambed alteration permit; or removal of specific protected or native trees. For these reasons, the existing parking lot solar portion of this project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code section 21080.35.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301: The project involves minor alteration and operation of existing facilities. The solar arrays will be installed to power an existing on-site agricultural irrigation pump, small building, back-up battery, and EV chargers. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304: The portion of the project to install solar arrays, battery storage, and EV chargers involves minor grading, trenching, and backfilling to provide an alternative source of power and to replace fossil-fuel-powered generation. These activities will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15311: The project will install new solar arrays, battery storage, and EV charging stations accessory to the existing, on-going agricultural operation. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have significant effect on the environment.

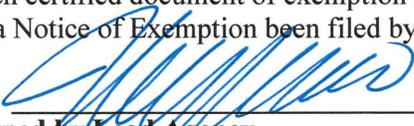
Each exemption is an independent basis for finding the project exempt.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Myoung-Ae Jones **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-651-1464

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:  **Date:** 6/17/19 **Title:** ECSI

- Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE