

Notice of Exemption

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-48
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Halo Industries, Inc.

Project Title: Production Scale-Up of Advanced Wafer Technology for Drastic Solar Photovoltaics Cost Reduction

Project Location – Specific: 1 N Amphlett Blvd Ste C

Project Location – City: San Mateo 94401

Project Location – County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this Agreement is to fund the production scale-up and validation of a novel solar photovoltaics wafer manufacturing technology, proven at the full-scale prototype level, to low rate production stage. Under the agreement the team will also finalize manufacturing design of the silicon laser processing technology that is estimated to reduce typical solar wafer manufacturing by 50 percent due to material savings from the proprietary manufacturing technology.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Halo Industries, Inc.

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, 15303, 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project will involve the modification and upgrade of an existing full-scale equipment prototype “solar wafer manufacturing technology” into a pilot production system as well as the end-to-end process validation for that pilot system. This project will not involve actual manufacturing of the solar wafer manufacturing technology; it will only involve activities intended to “scale-up” the technology so that it may be produced in the future. Project activities will include engineering/design work, supply chain development work, pilot system construction work, and pilot system validation work. All project work will be at an existing, standard industrial facility. This project will not generate any hazardous waste, will not generate noise or odors in excess of permitted levels, and will not involve any historic resources.

This project is therefore exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 because it consists of the minor alteration of an existing facility and mechanical equipment within that facility that involves negligible expansion of an

existing use at the facility. This project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 as the installation of small new equipment in a small structure. This project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 as a project that consists of basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities which does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Further, none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Joshua Croft Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-445-5309

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:  **JUL 24 2019**

Date: _____

Title: Energy Specialist I

Signed by Responsible Agency *S. P. [unclear]*

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: **JUL 24 2019**
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE