

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (NOE)

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth St. Rm. 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: City of Goleta
130 Cremona Drive, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2019 JUL 22 PM 2:01

Subject: Filing of Notice of Exemption

Project Title: Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan

Project Applicant: City of Goleta

Project Location (Address and APN): Citywide

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Goleta's Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan includes two components:

1. Goleta's Pathway to 100% Renewable Electricity (Overview), and
2. Strategic Energy Plan: City of Goleta

The Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan is a general planning document that assesses existing conditions and identifies possible improvements to the City's electrical infrastructure and local clean energy programs. The Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan also supports objectives in the City's General Plan. The strategies, design concepts and locations are conceptual in nature and do not constitute engineering level analyses of any project, but instead presents these concepts for future implementation.

The City's Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan identifies a range of strategies to overcome barriers to renewable energy development projects including regulatory policy-driven actions, financing options, outreach approaches, and options for solar energy and energy efficiency upgrades at the Goleta Valley Community Center, Goleta Public Library, and Goleta City Hall.

As a local-level feasibility and planning study, the Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan outlines a broad range of community strategies and improvements for public facilities that will be developed and constructed when Council directs project funding and prioritization. When required and depending on the location and scope of each project, project-specific CEQA analyses will be performed for the future projects.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: City of Goleta

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: City of Goleta

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 15269 (a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 15269 (b) (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Sec. 15262)
- Categorical Exemption: (Insert Type(s) and Section Number(s))
- Other: (Sec 15378(b)(4-5))

Reason(s) why the project is exempt:

In accordance with Article 18 (Statutory Exemptions) of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, the adoption of the Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan is not a legally binding activity and is, therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), which states:

A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

Consistent with this exemption, the Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan is a local-level feasibility and planning study, which provides a broad range of policy and renewable energy improvements that will be developed further when project-specific funding and prioritization occurs. The Strategic Energy / 100 % Renewable Electricity Plan does not adopt any specific policy or put in place any action which would cause a physical change to the environment. If any physical project contemplated by the Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan moves forward, a separate analysis of potential environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA will be performed at that time. The Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan will not have a legally binding effect on later activities as it is only a planning study and does not contain any mandatory measures or amendments to the GP/CLUP and/or Municipal Code.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. Therefore, the Strategic Energy / 100% Renewable Electricity Plan satisfies all the criteria of CEQA Guidelines, § 15262 and is exempt from CEQA. Further, the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines as it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

City of Goleta Contact Person and Telephone Number:

AUG 30 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Peter Imhof

Director, Planning & Environmental Review

7/22/19
Date

If filed by the 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

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Note: Authority cited: Section 21083 and 211110, Public Resources Code
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152.1, Public Resources Code