

EXHIBIT "A"

Notice Of Exemption

Appendix E

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
☒ County Clerk
County of San Joaquin

From: Stockton Unified School District
1944 N. El Pinal Drive
Stockton, CA 95205

Project Title: Stockton Unified School District Solar Installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and Additional Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Canopies at Stockton Unified School District's (District) Transportation Yard

Project Location – Specific: SUSD Transportation Yard 1932 El Pinal Drive, Stockton, CA, 95205

Project Location – City: Stockton **Project Location – County:** San Joaquin

Description of Project:

The Stockton Unified School District (District) is proposing the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), additional solar photovoltaic (PV) canopies to offset the added load from the electric buses/vehicles, and a battery energy storage system (BESS) at Stockton Unified School District's (District) Transportation Yard..

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Stockton Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Stockton 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: Class 3 California Public Resources Code § 15303(e)
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions: California Public Resources Code § 21080.35¹

Reasons why project is exempt:


In consideration of statutory exemption under California Public Resources Code § 21080.35¹ and in addition to the categorical exemption 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15303(e), the project would also be exempt under the General Rule Exemption, as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061.3(b)(3).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Gilbert P. Rosas **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 209-933-7050 x2890

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:** 2/12/20 **Title:** Director, Facilities & Planning

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: ☐ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 25 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION/EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Title: Stockton Unified School District Solar Installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and Additional Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Canopies at Stockton Unified School District's (District) Transportation Yard

Project Location: 1932 El Pinal Drive, Stockton, CA 95205

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 117-080-27

City and County: City of Stockton, Stockton County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The Stockton Unified School District (District) is proposing the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), additional solar photovoltaic (PV) canopies to offset the added load from the electric buses/vehicles, and a battery energy storage system (BESS) at Stockton Unified School District's (District) Transportation Yard.

The site consists of paved areas used for bus and fleet vehicle parking as well as warehouse and maintenance buildings. The project does not anticipate disturbing green space or any previously undeveloped area. The project would seek a categorical exemption from CEQA due to the small nature of the construction on a previously developed site (Class 3 and Class 11 exemptions) and a statutory exemption for the solar canopies under PRC Section 21080.35.

The EVSE portion of the project would consist of installation of concrete pads, an electrical transformer, electrical panels, underground conduits, and 12 or more electrical vehicle charging stations. The transformer and panel would require a footprint equivalent to approximately 1 parking space. Charging stations would be pedestal mounted or may be mounted on some existing or new solar canopy columns. Underground conduits from the electrical panel to the EV chargers would either be open trenched or directionally bored. Construction may include work from PG&E to upgrade the electrical service to the site.

The solar photovoltaic canopy structures would augment and mirror existing structures onsite. The canopy work would consist of drilled concrete piers with steel columns and crossmembers supporting a metal purlin framework and solar PV modules. All electrical equipment, including inverters, would be mounted on the columns of the canopy. The canopies would require approximately 12-15 columns. Similar to the EVSE, conduit would be directionally bored or open trenched from the electrical service to the canopies.

The BESS portion of the project would include installation of a concrete pad, BESS equipment and underground conduits. The BESS equipment would include lithium chemistry batteries housed in a metal enclosure and auxiliary electrical equipment, including an inverter. The BESS footprint would be on the order of two or three parking spaces.

The construction contractor would implement a project-specific Worksite Safety Plan, Emergency Plan, and Fire Safety Plan..

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

Stockton Unified School District

EXEMPT STATUS:

X CEQA State Guidelines, Statutory Exemption California Public Resources Code § 21080.35¹

X CEQA Categorical Exemption, Class 3 California Public Resources Code § 15303(e)

X General Rule Exemption [CEQA State Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)]

REMARKS: See next page.

Contact Person:

Gilbert P. Rosas, Energy Education Specialist

Telephone:

209-933-7050, Ext. 2890

Date of Determination:

2/11/2020

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.



Steve L. Breakfield, Director, Facilities and Planning

REMARKS:

As described below, the project meets the CEQA criteria for statutory exemption from environmental review under California Public Resources Code §21080.35¹ – Rooftop and Parking Lot Solar Projects. The site consists of paved areas used for bus and fleet vehicle parking, as well as warehouse and maintenance buildings. This project does not anticipate disturbing green space or any previously undeveloped areas. The project would seek a categorical exemption from CEQA due to the small nature of the construction on a previously developed Class 3 exemption and a statutory exemption for the solar canopies under PRC section 21080.35.

No regulatory permits from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Army Corps of Engineers or Regional Water Quality Control Board would be required for construction and operation of the solar energy system and associated equipment. Construction and installation of solar energy system would have no impact on plants protected under the Native Plant Protection Act nor would the project trigger compliance with either the California State Endangered Species Act or the Federal Endangered Species Act. Table 1. Summary of Proposed Project Site: SUSD Transportation Yard, 1932 El Pinal Drive, Stockton, CA, 95205

As described below, the project also meets criteria for exemption under Categorical Exemption §15303(e) Construction, Installation or Conversion of Small Structures, Facilities or Equipment, including carports. The project also meets criteria for exemption under the general rule Code of Regulations §15061(b)(3).

(a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with pertinent zoning designation and regulations.

The project is consistent with City General Plan designation and policies. No changes in land use or zoning are required as all carports would be placed on District property in existing parking lots that are currently used for parking cars and have been used as parking lots for at least two years.

(b) The proposed development occurs within the city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.

The project site is located within City limits and the carports would be less than five acres in size. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce costs associated with energy use.

(c) The project site has no value as habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Construction of the project would not impact sensitive resources, including wetland or aquatic habitats or riparian vegetation. Carports would be placed in existing paved parking lots that have been used for parking cars for at least 2 years. There are no aquatic resources or rare plants present within the project sites and the project sites lack habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.

(d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

Traffic

Construction and operation of the proposed project would have no impact on traffic as project sites are not located on public streets.

Noise

Construction of the project would result in minor increases in ambient noise levels lasting a maximum of 8 weeks. Short term increase in noise lasting a portion of a single day would have no impact on sensitive receptors.

Air Quality

Similar to noise, the impact on air quality would be temporary, construction-related effects (i.e. operation of diesel machinery during construction). The project would have an overall beneficial effect on air quality as the solar energy would reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions over the project lifetime.

Water Quality

The proposed project would not generate wastewater or result in discharges that would have the potential to degrade water quality or contaminate a public water supply. Thus, the project would have no impact on water quality. Based on the foregoing, the project does not have the potential to result in any significant impact on transportation, noise, air quality or water quality.

Historic Architectural and Archeological Resources

There are no historic resources within the project site and there are no known archaeological resources within the existing parking lots at the 6 project sites. Construction of the project does not have the potential to result in any disturbance to or significant impact on historic architectural or archaeological resources. Construction of the project would not result in any ground disturbing activities with potential to unearth archaeological resources.

Visual Quality

The overall appearance of the new carports would be designed to blend in with the existing landscape. There would be no new lighting associated with the carports. The project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact on the visual quality of the surrounding development, nor would it block significant views.

Other Environmental Issues

The project would not adversely affect farmland, public services, geologic stability, soils or health risk. There are no overlapping projects in the vicinity that would have environmental impacts to which the proposed project would add cumulatively.

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. As described above, there are no unusual circumstances surrounding the proposed project that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect.

In consideration of statutory exemption under California Public Resources Code § 21080.35¹ and in addition to the categorical exemption 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15302, the project would also be exempt under the General Rule Exemption, as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061.3(b)(3).

For all the above reasons, the proposed project is appropriately exempt from environmental review.