

# Notice of Exemption

# Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Upland Unified School District  
390 North Euclid Avenue  
Upland, CA 91786

County Clerk

County of: San Bernardino

(Address)

Project Title: Installation of Carport Mounted Solar PV Electricity Generation Systems

Project Applicant: Upland Unified School District (ECAA-Ed loan applicant)

Project Location - Specific:

Foothill Knolls STEM Academy, 1245 Veterans Court, Magnolia Elementary School, 465 W. 15th St.; Citru

Project Location - City: Upland Project Location - County: San Bernardino

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Nature - Under an ECAA-ED Loan Agreement Upland Unified School District seeks to install solar PV systems on open-rack carport structures at five school sites: Foothill Knolls STEM Academy, Magnolia Elementary, Citrus Elementary, Peppertree Elementary, and Upland Junior High School. Each of the systems will be installed in existing parking areas.  
Purpose - The purpose of the project is to invest in self-generation as a hedge against rising utility costs.  
Beneficiaries of the Project - The students and staff at Upland USD will benefit from a smaller fraction of the general fund being spent on utilities. Funding can be re-purposed such that it directly supports the education of the students. The community will also benefit in that property taxes paid for the support of the local education agency can be used more effectively towards the goal of student academic growth.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Upland Unified School District, (CEC is a reviewing agency)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Upland 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: 15301, Class 1; 15303, Class 3
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.35

### Reasons why project is exempt:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, this project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA review pursuant to section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15303 (New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures). Section 15301, Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of the existing or former use. Section 15303, Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures, and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The proposal for Upland Unified School District meets the requirements of the exemption; therefore, no further CEQA review is required.  
In addition to the categorical exemptions, CEQA Guidelines Section 21080.35 provides that solar energy systems installed on the roof of an existing building or on an existing parking lot are statutorily exempt from CEQA. The structures installed over the existing parking lots will not alter or expand the use of the parking lots. Further, a detailed review of the exceptions in subsections (d) and (e) which negate this statutory exemption confirmed that none of the exceptions apply to the proposed spaces, and therefore the district qualifies for statutory exemption 21080.35 as well.

### Lead Agency

Contact Person: Arik Avanesyans Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 909/985-1864/21119

### 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: 8/26/2020 Title: Assistant Superintendent Business Services

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**

**Aug 27 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**