

DOCKETED**06-NSHP-1**

TN # 76044

Commission
JUL 14 2015**Notice of Exemption**

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Adoption of revisions to the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*

Project Location: 1516 9th Street, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California 95814

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of this activity is to revise guidelines previously adopted by the California Energy Commission governing general administration of its New Solar Homes Partnership ("NSHP") Program pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25780 et seq. The Guidelines are being revised to: clarify the time period for accepting reservation applications; clarify metering requirements; revise and clarify documentation required for affordable housing projects; revise lease and power purchase agreement requirements; require HERS ("home energy rating system") field verifications of solar energy systems in new housing developments to follow the sample testing requirements described in the Building Energy Efficiency Standards under which the project was permitted, with certain exceptions; clarify and revise deadline requirements; revise the process for requesting additional project funding; revise and clarify when current and previous versions of the *Guidebook* apply to projects; minor revisions to forms; and make other clarifying and non-substantive changes. The California Energy Commission, utilities, applicants to the NSHP, and solar retailers and installers will benefit from the adoption of these guidelines.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Energy Commission

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: _____

☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

☒ Other: Activity is not a "project" under Sec. 15378(b)(2) and (4), and falls within the common sense exception under Sec. 15061(b)(3) and the solar rooftop exemption in Public Resources Code Sec. 21080.35.

Reasons why project is exempt: Activity is not a project under Sec. 15378(b)(2) and (4), because it pertains to general policy and procedure making and the creation of governmental funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The activity is exempt under Sec. 15061(b)(3) because there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. Also, many if not all of the solar energy system installations that receive incentives through the NSHP program fall within the solar rooftop exemption in Public Resources Code Sec. 21080.35.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Christa Salo, Office of Chief Counsel
California Energy Commission
(916) 651-2935

Signature: Christa Salo

Date: 7-14-15 Title: Staff Attorney

☐ Signed by the Lead Agency

Date received for filing by OPR: _____

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JUL 14 2015

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