

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 to govern the general administration of its New Solar Homes Partnership Program ("NSHP") pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25780 et seq. The guidelines are being revised to 1) revise the NSHP incentive levels and incentive decline schedules, 2) revise the noticing requirement for implementing incentive declines, 3) establish system funding caps based on total system cost, 4) revise the funding criteria for increases to systems with approved funding reservations, 5) revise the standard system size for funding reservations issued to Solar as an Option projects, 6) revise and clarify the energy efficiency requirements for the NSHP, 7) require additional reporting for Solar As Standard projects to verify progress, 8) recognize the use of virtual net metering for multifamily projects, and 9) make other clarifying and non-substantive changes. The California Energy Commission and participants of the NSHP benefit from the adoption of revisions to 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).

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 a commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and is also exempt under Sec. 15061(b)(3) in that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Gabriel Herrera, Senior Staff Counsel
Office of Chief Counsel
California Energy Commission
(916) 654-5141

Signature: 

Date: 1-12-12 Title: Senior Staff Counsel

Signed by the Lead Agency

Date received for filing by OPR: _____

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