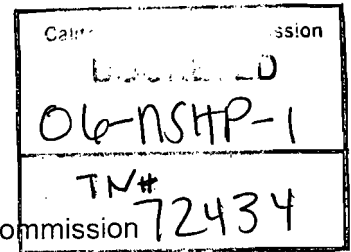


## Notice of Exemption

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

FROM: California Energy Commission  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814



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

Project Location: 1516 9<sup>th</sup> 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 ("NSHP") Program pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25780 et seq. The Guidelines are being revised to add program requirements that do the following: change when a solar permit must be issued to qualify for NSHP; clarify 2013 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards related requirements; revise the energy efficiency requirements and processes; remove a registration requirement for contractors, installers, and sellers; add a new incentive level; modify the incentive decline schedule and process; revise lease and power purchase agreement requirements; extend the reservation period for virtual net-metered projects; remove the "Solar as an Option" project type; modify the requirements for the "Solar as Standard" project type and it is now referred to as "Large Developments"; revise the reservation and payment claim processes and requirements; revise the NSHP-1 and NSHP-2 Forms; streamline the language and requirements; incorporate relevant portions of the Overall Program Guidebook; and to 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).

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. In addition, the activity is 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:

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

DEC 23 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Signature: Christa Salo Date: 12-23-13 Title: Staff Counsel

☐ Signed by the Lead Agency

Date received for filing by OPR: \_\_\_\_\_