

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-45
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Margarita Vineyards LLC

Project Title: Margarita Vineyards West Ranch Solar

Project Location – Specific: 5995 W Pozo Rd (APN: 070-251-015)

Project Location – City: Santa Margarita 93453 **Project Location – County:** San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will install a solar photovoltaic energy system for existing on-site electric irrigation pumps and a new electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The ground-mounted solar arrays will be located northeast side of the reservoir on the northeast corner of the parcel 070-251-015, occupying an area approximately 100 feet by 272 feet. The EV charging station will be installed at the employee parking area on the northwest side on the parcel for on-site use. The project will also include minor grading, trenching, and installation and compaction of conduit runs from the solar arrays to the main service disconnect and EV charging station. After installation, the area beneath the arrays will be covered with crushed rock for vegetation control. The project will be constructed to avoid impacts to harvesting and farming activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Margarita Vineyards LLC

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §§ 15301, 15304, and 15311
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301: The project involves minor alteration and operation of existing facilities. Solar arrays will be installed to power existing on-site agricultural irrigation pumps and new EV charging station. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304: The project to install solar arrays involves minor grading, trenching, and backfilling to provide an alternate source of power for the existing on-site irrigation pumps and new EV charging station. These activities will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15311: The project will install new solar arrays and an EV charging station accessory to the existing, on-going agricultural operation. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have significant effect on the environment.

Each exemption is an independent basis for finding the project exempt.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lucio Hernandez **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-654-5004

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: Lucio Hernandez **Date:** 6/17/19 **Title:** AES

- Signed by Responsible Agency
- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Date received for filing at OPR: JUN 17 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE