

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: Gallo Cattle Company, LP DBA Joseph Gallo Farms

Project Title: Off-grid Solar Energy Project Accelerating Ag EV Adoption

Project Location – Specific: 10561 West Highway 140 (APN: 056-160-009)

Project Location – City: Atwater 95301 **Project Location – County:** Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will install a solar photovoltaic energy system and electric vehicle (EV) charging station to provide power for zero-emission off-road equipment and mobile energy storage. The approximately one acre ground-mounted solar array will be installed in an open area and on bare ground near Joseph Gallo Farm's Red Barn Maintenance Facility, located adjacent to existing electric meters. The electricity produced by the solar array will be used to charge two zero-emission off-road equipment and mobile energy storage used for crop spraying and mowing the farm's 3,600 acres of almond tree crops. Installation will also include minor grading, trenching, and compaction of conduit runs from the solar array to the nearby concrete pad and covering for the EV charging station. 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: Gallo Cattle Company, LP

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 a new EV charging station for charging zero-emission off-road equipment and mobile energy storage. 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 and EV charger involves minor grading, trenching, and backfilling to provide an alternate source of power for off-road farm equipment used for spraying crops and mowing. 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