

**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-48  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** Natron Energy, Inc.

**Project Title:** Advanced Energy Storage for Electric Vehicle Charging Support

**Project Location – Specific:** 9414 Voigt Drive

**Project Location – City:** San Diego 92093

**Project Location – County:** San Diego

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Natron will design and manufacture a purpose-built battery product for the EV Fast Charging market, and install and test an integrated energy storage system at EVgo's Stationary Storage Plus Electric Charging (SSPEC) site at UC San Diego's (UCSD) microgrid. The SSPEC project resulted in Project Partners EVgo and UCSD receiving the Energy Storage North America "Best Mobility Award" in 2016. The goals of the project include: 1) Provide the stationary energy storage market with a technologically superior, economically viable alternative to the current portfolio of lithium-ion batteries; 2) Demonstrate increased ratepayer benefits for the early-adopter market application of Electric Vehicle Fast Charging (EVFC) that will highly value the characteristics of a new Prussian blue/sodium-ion battery technology; 3) Support the economic deployment of high-power EVFC infrastructure to increase EV adoption, enabling California's goal of 5 million EVs by 2030.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Natron Energy, Inc.

**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 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project will involve the development, installation and demonstration of a sodium-ion battery energy storage system. The system will be manufactured at an existing facility and then installed and tested at an existing electric vehicle fast charging station in an existing parking lot. Project activities are limited to these two sites which are already permitted for the proposed activities. To develop, manufacture, and install the system some concrete foundations, pavements and existing buried electrical conduits may need to be modified and temporary equipment (inverter and battery racks) will need to be mounted at the manufacturing facility. This project will not generate any hazardous waste, will not generate noise or odors in excess of permitted levels and will not involve any historic resources. This project is therefore categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 because

it consists of the minor alteration of existing facilities and mechanical equipment within or at those facilities that involves negligible expansion of existing uses at the facilities. This project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 as the installation of small new equipment in small structures. Further, none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: Quenby Lum Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-327-1492

**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:  Date: 7/11/19 Title: ASSOC. ENERGY SPEC.

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

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_ Governor's Office of Planning & Research.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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