

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: Aemetis Advanced Fuels Keyes, Inc.

Project Title: Aemetis Integrated Microgrid Solution (AIMS) Project

Project Location – Specific: 4209 Jessup Rd, east of Faith Home Road, north of Jessup Road (APN# 045-026-039)

Project Location – City: Ceres 95307 **Project Location – County:** Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will design, install, and operate an emerging microgrid system consisting of a 1.56 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic array and 1.25 MW/2.5MWh battery energy storage system to offset the use of natural gas and electricity by generating it onsite for the animal food production facility. Specifically, solar photovoltaics, battery energy storage, and a microgrid controller will be installed which will produce renewable electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 10.95-acre site includes M (Industrial) zoning east of the main drive aisle and P-D (Planned Development) zoning to the west. The arrays will be installed on an elevated structure over the site's stormwater basin and over areas with vehicle traffic.

The lead agency, Stanislaus County Planning Department, determined that the project was exempt under CEQA.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Aemetis Advanced Fuels Keyes, 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, 15304, 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 and battery energy storage system will be installed to power existing on-site biofuels and animal food production facility. These installations will not expand the existing 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 installation over disturbed land utilized in conjunction with the development. This project involves minor alterations in the

condition of land including minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. 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 to serve the existing, onsite biofuels and animal food production facility. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have a significant effect the environment.

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

Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Kevin Uy **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1533

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:** 07/02/2020 **Title:** Electric Generation System Specialist II

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 02 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____