

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: Antora Energy, Inc.

Project Title: Solid-state Long Duration Energy Storage for Industrial Applications

Project Location – Specific: 8105 S Lassen Ave

Project Location – City: San Joaquin 93660 **Project Location – County:** Fresno

Also, One Cyclotron Road, Berkeley / Alameda County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under grant Agreement EPC-19-031, the California Energy Commission will provide a grant of \$1,999,787 to Antora Energy, Inc. to develop and field-test a breakthrough, long-duration, energy storage system based on thermophotovoltaic (TPV) technology. Testing, fabricating TPV material, and producing TPV devices will take place at an existing laboratory in Berkeley, California. The pilot-scale TPV facility will be built at an existing cogeneration power plant site east of the City of San Joaquin in Fresno County.

Beneficiaries will include users of the new technology (eventually) and California's investor-owned electric utilities and their customers (i.e., ratepayers); along with the public at large and the environment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Antora 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:

The project involves development, testing, and pilot-scale demonstration of an energy storage system based on thermophotovoltaic (TPV) technology. The technology includes using electricity to heat graphite blocks, and then reconverting the heat to electricity at a later time. Testing, fabricating TPV material, and producing TPV devices will take place at an existing laboratory in Berkeley, California. The pilot-scale TPV facility will be built at an existing cogeneration power plant site east of the City of San Joaquin in Fresno County. The project includes a

200 sq. ft. foundation, the TPV equipment, and associated electrical connections, within the over 49-acre complex containing cogeneration, solar power, and agricultural by-products processing.

Fresno County has jurisdiction over the cogeneration complex, and its latest approval for the cogeneration plant was Conditional Use Permit No. 3158 in 2006, including environmental analysis. Based on initial review, Fresno County Planning Staff has determined the proposed TPV system is incidental to the existing authorized use, with no effect on the previously analyzed environmental impacts at the cogeneration power plant site. Fresno County Planning Staff indicated (May 14, 2020) that the County's review of Antora's TPV project would be ministerial, with no additional CEQA action on its part.

The Antora TPV project consists of the operation, maintenance, permitting, and/or minor alteration of existing public or private facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Therefore, this project is exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities. In addition, the project includes new, small facilities and/or installation of small, new equipment in small structures. Therefore, this project is exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Robin Goodhand **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1412

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: Robin Goodhand **Date:** 7/1/2020 **Title:** CAM

Signed by Responsible Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Jul 06 2020

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE