

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: I: Shōri – Iwatani Light Duty Hydrogen Station Deployment

Project Applicant: Iwatani Corporation of America

Project Location - Specific: 16880 Slover Avenue, Fontana, CA 92337

Project Location - City: Fontana

Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will support the build out of hydrogen refueling infrastructure to support the roll out of fuel cell vehicles in California.

The nature of the project is installation of hydrogen refueling equipment at an existing gas station. Hydrogen refueling equipment consists of hydrogen storage tanks, and compression and dispensing equipment. Beneficiaries will include residents in Fontana and will expand to much of the surrounding area as this station allows drivers to use fuel cell vehicles displacing polluting vehicles.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Iwatani Corporation of America

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Cal. Code Reg.s. tit. 14, sections 15301 ("Existing Facilities;") 15303 ("New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;") 15304 ("Minor Alterations to Land.")
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is to develop a hydrogen refueling station by adding hydrogen storage, compression, and dispensing equipment with an estimated maximum footprint of 1,000 square feet and trenching up to 50 feet at an existing retail gasoline station.

As to the equipment to be installed, the storage tanks will hold up to 1,358 kg of hydrogen. The hydrogen dispenser will dispense at 700 bar. Control valves will be pneumatically operated. All control valves fail in the safe direction (closed) after loss of utility power or instrument gas supply. All system alarms and shutdowns are displayed on the control panel face. Critical alarms are hard wired in addition to being connected through the Programmable Logic Controller. This adds an extra layer of safety to the system.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed project adds equipment to an existing gasoline station that covers an area which is less than 1,000 square feet, with an excavation area of no more than 1,000 square feet. This square footage is far less than that specified in one example provided in the Regulations (i.e., 14 C.C.R. § 15301(e)) of a minor addition to existing structures. Because the proposed site is an existing gas station; the proposed addition of a hydrogen refueling facility will not significantly expand the use beyond that already existing; and

the square footage of equipment installation is relatively small, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15303 provides that projects which consist of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed project consists of installation of small new equipment, including hydrogen storage of up to 1,358 kg capacity, and compression and dispensing equipment, at the site. Therefore, the proposed project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15304 provides that projects which consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

For the installation of the equipment in this project, there will be up to 50 feet of trenching to connect storage and compression equipment to dispensers. No trees will be removed and the surface will be restored. This reflects exactly the example given in section 15304(f). Therefore, the proposed project falls within section 15304 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

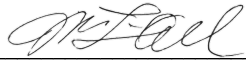
Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Miki Crowell Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-805-7482

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: 02/24/2021 Title: Air Pollution Specialist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant