

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** University of California  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
300 A & E, Berkeley  
California 94720-1382

**Project Title:** *Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installations at the Parking Lots, adjacent to The Lawrence Hall of Science*

**Project Location** – 1 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA

**Project Location** – **City:** Berkeley

**Project Location** – **County:** Alameda

### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):

UC Berkeley has entered into an agreement for solar carport and ground mounted installations at the Hill Terrace, East and vista parking lot area near the Lawrence Hall of Science main building. There will be west facing carports and ground mount installations on 1 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. The project will also include battery storage and conduit for future electric vehicles. The project will not result in an increase in square footage. A total of up to 35 trees will be removed and none of the trees are specimen trees per the UC Specimen Tree Program.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** University of California

**Parties Undertaking Project:** University of California; *Sunpower Helix*

### Exempt Status:

- 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. **Class 1 Existing Facilities; Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structure; Class 11 Accessory Structures**
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 20180.35
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

### Reason Why Project is Exempt:

The Project would involve installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) carports on existing parking lots and ground mounted solar PVs. The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Class 1 Existing Facilities because the Project would involve negligible or no expansion of use. The solar arrays would be located in an area where no environmentally sensitive habitat exists.

The project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines 15303 - Class 3 New construction or conversion of small structures. This project involves the construction of accessory structures such as solar carports on existing parking lots with its associated equipment.

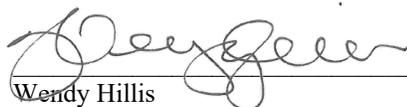
The Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Class 11 Accessory Structures. Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, which is applicable to this project because this project includes placement of solar carports.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 includes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location; cumulative impact; significant effect; scenic highways; hazardous waste sites; and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Wendy Hillis

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (510) 664-4948

**Signature:**



Wendy Hillis

**Title:**

Assistant Vice Chancellor and Campus Architect, Capital Strategies

**Date:**

December 8, 2021

Signed by Lead Agency  
Date received for filing at OPR