

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
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: MD/HD Zero-Emission Infrastructure Block Grant Project (EnergIIZE Commercial Vehicles)

Project Applicant: CALSTART, Inc

Project Location - Specific: across California

Project Location - City: various California cities

Project Location - County: various California counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under grant agreement ARV-20-006 with CALSTART Inc., the California Energy Commission (CEC) is funding an up to \$275,953,982 block grant to design, implement, and fund, with CEC oversight, various medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle refueling infrastructure incentive projects throughout California. This project will be user-friendly, flexible, and easily scalable as available funds increase. It will prioritize equity and community involvement while making incentives available to a wide audience by offering assistance and support. CALSTART Inc. will collect data, obtain feedback from incentive recipients, and develop recommendations on how to improve incentive implementation throughout the term of this project.

Beneficiaries will include MD/HD vehicle owners statewide, especially fleet owners aiming to purchase or construct their own zero-emission vehicle infrastructure. Additional beneficiaries include residents in California due to targeted emission reductions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: CALSTART, Inc.

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, section 15301, 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Under this agreement, CALSTART, Inc., will develop and implement financial incentive projects solely to fund the purchase and installation of zero-emission vehicle refueling infrastructure, including but not limited to electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment and hydrogen refueling station equipment. The zero-emission vehicle refueling equipment funded under this agreement will only involve commercially available products being installed in predominantly in existing facilities such as parking areas, gasoline stations, or shopping centers.

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. This project meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15301 because installing EV charging equipment will only involve minor alterations and no expansion of use since the parking areas or facilities already exist. The hydrogen refueling equipment would not significantly expand the use beyond that already existing at potential sites; and the square footage of equipment installation is estimated to be relatively small.

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. This project meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15303 because only a limited number of new small equipment in the form of EV charging equipment will be added to existing parking areas. The hydrogen refueling equipment may consist of hydrogen storage tanks, compression, and dispensing equipment. Relative to both exemptions, this work will only require minor modifications, such as small amounts of trenching, extending electrical lines to the equipment, securing the EV charging equipment in place, and adding signage. Therefore, the proposed project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Matthew Kozuch Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-477-1564

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: Matthew Kozuch Date: 12/8/2021 Title: Air Pollution Specialist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant