

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

**From:** California Energy Commission  
 715 P Street, MS-27  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** EV Charging Solutions, Inc.

**Project Title:** EVCS Shafter Community and Surrounding Area DCFC

**Project Location – Specific:** 15688 S Harlan Road, Lathrop (Holiday Inn)  
 Mathews Road, French Camp (SJCHA – Victory Garden)

**Project Location – City:** Lathrop and French Camp **Project Location – County:** San Joaquin

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Under grant Agreement ZVI-22-031, the California Energy Commission will provide a grant of \$668,800 to EV Charging Solution, Inc. for the project.

The project includes installation of two direct current fast charging hubs in the cities of Lathrop and French Camp. Six DC fast chargers and two level 2 chargers will be built at a Holiday Inn in Lathrop. Four DC fast chargers and one level 2 charger will be built at Victory Garden in French Camp. The purpose of this project is to maximize access of electric vehicle (EV) travel for rural residents and demonstrate replicable and scalable business and technology models for large-scale deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Beneficiaries will include EV users in Lathrop and French Camp. California taxpayers and the environment will benefit from increased EV use and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** EV Charging Solutions, 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; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15301)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 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 involves installation of electric vehicle charging stations at two existing parking facilities. The electric vehicle charging station will be installed on an existing paved parking lot and will involve negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

EV Charging Solutions, Inc.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 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 CEQA. This project consists of installation of new small equipment to an existing site. Three Level 2 chargers and ten DCFC will be installed. Specifically, the Tritium fast charging equipment to be installed is approximately half the size of a phone booth and the Level 2 charging equipment is the size of a parking meter. The equipment will be installed in an existing, paved parking lot. Therefore, the 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 and agricultural purposes are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. There will be a small amount of dust during the 2-4 week construction period. Minimum trenching in a ground level parking lot will be required for this project. No trenching will be required for locations with a multi-level parking structure. The trenching will take place on currently paved ground, will not involve the removal of any trees, and surface will be restored. Therefore, the project falls within section 15304 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Daniel Siu **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-908-7483

**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:** Daniel Siu **Date:** 1/26/2023 **Title:** Energy Analyst

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_