

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: hguerra@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

<p>FILED TULARE COUNTY</p> <p>AUG 23 2023</p> <p>ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY:</p>
<p>DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE</p>

Applicant(s): Tulare CSG 3 LLC
11100 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 780
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: c/o 730-936-7955

Project Title: Tulare CSG 3 Solar Project (PSP 23-060)

Project Location - Specific: Southwest corner of Avenue 248 and Road 64 and approximately 3 miles northwest of the city of Tulare. The Project is located within Section 25, Township 19S, Range 23E, MDBM at coordinates are 36° 14' 30."N (latitude) and 119°25'39.0"W (longitude). APN is 148-010-016.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 25, Township 19S, Range 23E

Project Location - City: Tulare, CA **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Applicant (Tulare CSG 3 LLC) proposes to construct and operate the Tulare CSG 3 Solar Project (Project); a single-axis tracker ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) community solar and battery storage facility, approximately 6.7MWdc/5MWac in capacity. The Project is proposed to be located on a privately-owned parcel in Tulare County, California. Tulare CSG 3 LLC is requesting Special Use Permit approval from Tulare County in order to proceed with construction of the project. The purpose of the proposed Project is to construct and operate a PV solar array with attached battery storage, which will generate and store clean and renewable solar energy, with electricity offtake sold to residential customers within Tulare County and the larger Southern California Edison ("SCE") Utility Territory. It is anticipated that the life of the Project will be 35 years. In addition of the description above, the applicant will prepare a reclamation plan to be implemented after the life of the Project. The Project is proposed under the California Assembly Bill 2316 (AB2316), adopted by the California legislature in 2022. AB 2316 (Ward) Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP) instructs the California Public Utilities Commission to establish a new community solar program by March 2024 which will bolster the reliability of the electrical grid while benefitting those who cannot put solar on their roofs. The Project would benefit Tulare County by providing clean and renewable solar energy generation.

Exempt Status: (check one)

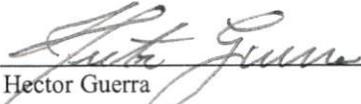
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: **CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)**
- Categorical Exemption;
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: Project is categorically exempt, consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, pursuant to Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations Section 15061 (b)(3), pertaining to the Common Sense Rule and, therefore, is not subject to CEQA. Further, any project design features; conditions of approval; and/or rules, regulations, requirements, etc., required by other agencies/departments must be adhered to as applicable. The Applicant has also submitted technical studies supporting conclusions that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Resource Management Agency

Project Planner/Representative: David Alexander, Planner III

Telephone: (559) 624-7138

Signature: 
Hector Guerra

Date: 8/23/23

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 2/23/23

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____