

City of Rancho Santa Margarita  
22112 El Paseo  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
(949) 635-1800

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: X County of Orange X Office of Planning and Research  
Clerk-Recorder Submitted online at: <https://cegasubmit.opr.ca.gov>  
601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Project Title and File Number:** St. John's School Solar Carports (Planning Application RSM 23-008)

**Project Applicant:** Renewable Energy Partners **Telephone Number:** 855-519-6633  
198 Lewis Court  
Corona, CA 92882

**Project Location:** 30382 Via Con Dios  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

**Project Description:** A Site Development Permit and Variance to allow solar carports within the parking lot of an existing school and church. The project includes the installation of three freestanding carports with attached solar panels mounted atop the carport roofs. Modifications to the existing parking stall count and parking lot configuration are not proposed. New parking lot landscaping and lighting will be installed. A Variance to have reduced setbacks from adjacent property lines to the new solar carports is proposed. No change to existing on-site church and school uses is proposed.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Rancho Santa Margarita

**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, section and class number)

**Section 15303 Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**

**Section 15311 Class 11: Accessory Structures**

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15303 and 15311, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 3 "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" and Class 11 "Accessory Structures" categorical exemptions since the project will involve the installation of a limited number of new accessory structures, three solar carports, within an existing parking lot on a developed church and school site. The proposed project will include no expansion of existing on-site uses. Furthermore, all necessary public services and facilities are already available to the proposed project site, and approval of the proposed project will not result in significant adverse effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

**Lead Agency:** City of Rancho Santa Margarita

**Contact Person:** Derek Bingham, Senior Planner

**Telephone:** (949) 635-1800 Ext. 6705

**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: November 1, 2023

**Name and Title:** Derek Bingham, Senior Planner