

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:  Mail Stop: A-33  
ARCC-Recorder  
Attn: Karina Ortiz  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: Mail Stop: 0-368  
County of San Diego,  
Department of General Services  
Attn: Melanie Tylke  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123

State Clearinghouse  
Filed Electronically

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152**

Project Name: Lease Agreement Between the County of San Diego and SolarStorage

Project Location: 500 Third Avenue Chula Vista, California 91910; San Diego County (APN: 573-100-39-00)

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of General Services,  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123

Project Description: Installation and operation of a 530 kW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) connected to the existing Central Plant of the South Bay Regional Center (SBRC). The BESS consists of a lithium-ion battery storage unit within a 31" x 20" prefabricated enclosure on a concrete pad, located within the SBRC parking lot. Accessory switchgear, transformer, disconnect, metering, communications and conduit will also be installed. Supplementing existing photovoltaic energy systems on site, the BESS will operate 24/7 to provide sustainable energy efficient operations at the SBRC. The lease term is a period of twelve (12) years.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: November 16, 2023

County Contact Person: Helmer Rodriguez

Telephone: (858) 495-5813

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors has approved the above-described project on January 23, 2024 (Item # 10), and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"):

Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]

Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]

Statutory Exemption. C Section:

Categorical Exemption. G Section(s): 15301, 15303, 15304

G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan

Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.

G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt:

The Lease Agreement between the County of San Diego and Total Energies is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301 – Existing Facilities, Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land. The proposed lease would add new small mechanical equipment, including a battery energy storage system (BESS) to an existing public facility (South Bay Regional Center) that would involve negligible expansion of the existing use on-site. Improvements would be limited to an approximately 620 square-foot area, to be fenced, within an existing disturbed parking lot. Minor trenching and back-fill would be required to install the necessary conduit and utility connections between the BESS, existing PV equipment and the Central Plant. The installation of the BESS will allow the County to reduce energy use at this facility as the battery storage provides for peak shaving, energy arbitration as well as critical energy supply services in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the project will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to cumulative environmental impacts; will not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of Government Code; and will not adversely change the significance of a historical resource.

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The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature:  Telephone: (619) 616-9326

Name (Print): Melanie Tylke Title: Environmental Project Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.