

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: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov
jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

FILED TULARE COUNTY
JAN 30 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Proteum Energy, LLC
120 N. 44th Street Suite 400
Tulare, CA 93274
(480) 319-2879

Project Title: Notice of Exemption No., CEQ 23-013 – Golden State Hydrogen Plant Pixley

Project Location - Specific: On the southwest corner of Avenue 120 and Road 120 within the Pixley Urban Development Boundary (APN: 295-010-006, 007, 008, and 009)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 19, Township 22S, Range 25E

Project Location - City: Pixley **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Proteum Energy, LLC (Proteum) is proposing the Golden State Hydrogen Project (Project), a renewable clean hydrogen production hub that would provide regional renewable hydrogen production, liquefaction, storage, distribution and refueling infrastructure to support the local economy within Tulare County within the M-1 (Light Manufacturing) Zone within the Pixley Urban Development Boundary (UDB). The project will include a 104-acre, 23-megawatt peak (MWp) solar array with a 20 megawatt per hour (MWhr) storage that will supplement 20MW of power generated on site. The facility would generate 30 metric tons per day of low/negative carbon intensity fuel cell grade renewable clean hydrogen for transportation. Clean hydrogen will be liquefied on site, stored, and trucked to refueling stations and fleets throughout California. The hydrogen plant will also produce at least 1,800 MMBtu/day of renewable natural gas, which will be delivered to a Southern California Gas natural gas distribution line near the site.


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: CEQA Guidelines Class 32 Section 15332 In-Fill Development
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why the project is exempt: The proposed hydrogen plant / solar project is an allowed use in the M-1 zone and only requires the issuance of building permits, which are ministerial permits and statutorily exempt under CEQA.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Gary Mills **Telephone:** (559) 624-7000

Signature:  Date: 1/23/2024 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Gary A. Mills

Signature:  Date: 1/30/24 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency