

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Co-Lead Agency:
California Energy Commission
Fuels and Transportation
Division
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Co-Lead Agency:
California Department of
Transportation (Caltrans)
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program Interagency Agreement

Project Applicant: California Energy Commission/Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: Across California

Project Location - City: Varies

Project Location - County: Varies

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The \$5 billion NEVI Formula Program is part of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law by President Biden in November 2021. The BIL set aside 10 percent of the Federal NEVI Program for the Secretary of Transportation “to make grants to States and localities that require additional assistance to strategically deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure.” One program in this set-aside is the Federal EVC RAA Program which focuses on repairing or replacing broken or non-operational EV chargers to improve the reliability of existing EV charging infrastructure. By funding repairs and replacements for broken Level 2 and DC fast chargers, the program directly benefits EV drivers with reduced range anxiety and more reliable charging options.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission/Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: EVC RAA Project Awardees

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 and section number: §15301 – “Existing Facilities”
§15303 – “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures”
§15304 – “Minor Alterations to Land”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Under this agreement, Caltrans will work with the California Energy Commission, to release grant funding opportunities to fund the repair or replacement of broken or non operational vehicle charging infrastructure.

The electric vehicle charging infrastructure will only involve commercially available products being installed in existing parking areas and/or existing facilities. California Code Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alterations of existing public

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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 CEQA. This meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15301 because installation of electric vehicle chargers will only involve minor alterations and no expansion of use since the parking areas or facilities already exist.

CCR Title 14 Section 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 meets the requirements of 14 CCR 15303 because only a limited number of small new equipment in the form of electric vehicle chargers and associated equipment will be added to existing parking areas. This work will only require minor modifications, such as small amounts of trenching, extending electrical lines to the equipment, securing the electric vehicle chargers in place, and adding signage. Therefore, the project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

CCR Title 14 Section 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 or agricultural purposes, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. For the installation of equipment in this project, there will be minimal trenching to connect electrical equipment to the electric vehicle chargers. No trees are anticipated to be removed and the 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: Ben De Alba

Area

Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-539-6828

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: BDA Date: 2/21/2024 Title: Energy Resources Supervisor III

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed By Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____