

# Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Monterey

168 W Alisal St. 1st Floor

Salinas, CA 93901

From: (Public Agency): Monterey Bay Air Resources District  
24580 Silver Cloud Ct.  
Monterey, CA 93940

**FILED**

MAY 08 2024

XOCHITL MARINA CANACHO  
MONTEREY COUNTY CLERK  
2024-0097 DEPUTY

Project Title: Building Monterey Bay's First Hybrid-Electric Whale Watching Vessel Project

Project Applicant: Monterey Bay Eco Tours

Project Location - Specific:

7501 Sandholdt Rd, Moss Landing, CA 95039

Project Location - City: Moss Landing

Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Monterey Bay Eco Tours (MBET) and project partners, utilizing California Climate Investments (CCI) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) funds, propose to build the first hybrid-electric whale-watching boat for operation out of Moss Landing Harbor. The proposed vessel will be custom-built by Left Coast Composites (LCC) and Coast Guard certified to carry 49 passengers for year-round whale watching excursions. This 57-foot-long catamaran will have electric inboard motors with emergency backup diesel-powered generators to meet Coast Guard safety requirements. The project will include renewable energy sources by including rooftop solar panels to trickle charge the batteries. The Advanced Technology and Demonstration Pilot Project program is intended to strategically accelerate the advancement of innovative and economically viable technologies into the commercial marketplace while also supporting the State's equity and emission reduction goals. The Program helps to achieve these goals by funding projects that help guide development by encouraging the economic and environmental benefits of the projects.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Monterey Bay Air Resources District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monterey Bay Eco Tours

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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Construction of an electric whale watching vessel with emergency backup diesel powered generators will not result in any serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Additionally, roof top solar panels which allow for a trickle charge to the electric inboard motors will add a renewable energy component to the project.

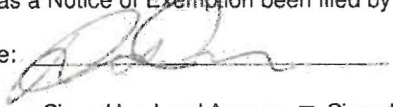
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Edward Ballaron

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (831) 718-8030

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: 5/8/24

Title: Air Pollution Control Officer

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_