

# Notice of Exemption

---

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

**From:** Responsible Agency:  
California Energy Commission  
Fuels and Transportation Division  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** FirstElement Fuel, Inc. O&M

---

**Project Applicant:** FirstElement Fuel, Inc.

---

**Project Location - Specific:** Various (Please see the description section below)

---

**Project Location - City:** Various

---

**Project Location - County:** Various

---

## Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will make operations and maintenance improvements to existing hydrogen refueling stations at:

- 24505 W. Dorris Ave., Coalinga, CA 93210
- 248 S. Airport Blvd., South San Francisco, CA 94080
- 2101 N. 1st St., San Jose, CA 95131
- 3401 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90807
- 2050 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627
- 550 Foothill Blvd., La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011
- 20731 Lake Forest Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630
- 12600 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070
- 2855 Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA 95008
- 150 S. La Cumbre Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105
- 391 W. A St., Hayward, CA 94541
- 570 Redwood Hwy, Mill Valley, CA 94941
- 12105 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee, CA 96161
- 5700 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028
- 8126 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045
- 3060 Carmel Valley Rd., San Diego, CA 92130
- 1200 Fair Oaks Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030
- 41700 Grimmer Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538
- 3102 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
- 350 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610
- 18480 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708
- 15544 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Mission Hills, CA 91345
- 1296 Sunnyvale Saratoga Rd., Sunnyvale, CA 94087
- 3780 Cahuenga Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604
- 313 West Orangethorpe Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870
- 337 E. Hamilton Ave., Campbell, CA 95008
- 605 Contra Costa Blvd., Concord, CA 94523
- 26813 La Paz Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
- 14478 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
- 2995 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

# Notice of Exemption

---

- 14477 Merced Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706
- 615 South Tustin Street, Orange, CA 92866
- 21530 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, CA 95014
- 3939 Snell Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136
- 800 North Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505
- 475 N Allen Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106
- 5494 Mission Center Rd., San Diego, CA 92108
- 4280 Foothill Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94601

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

---

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** FirstElement Fuel, Inc.

---

**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”), §15302 (“Replacement or Reconstruction”)\_
- 
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed project will be carried out at existing hydrogen refueling stations and will provide operations and maintenance improvements via hardware, software, and/or process driven solutions.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public 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 the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed project replaces the older obsolete card readers at existing hydrogen stations with newer generation card readers. The proposed project will also replace critical equipment at existing hydrogen stations such as compressors and cryopumps. Because the existing facilities are already used for hydrogen fueling, the proposed upgrades and improvements to the hydrogen refueling station involves negligible or no expansion of the existing or former use. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Section 15302 provides that projects which consist of replacement of existing structures and facilities on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the structure or facility replaced are exempt from CEQA. Here the project involves replacement of critical equipment for existing hydrogen refueling stations including card readers, compressors and cryopumps.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve

# Notice of Exemption

---

unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Responsible Agency**

**Contact Person:** Mark Johnson

**Area**

**Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 314-0925

**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: Mark Johnson Date: 5/16/2024 Title: Air Pollution Specialist

Signed by Responsible Agency  Signed By Applicant

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