



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: **County Clerk**
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave., L#1260
Ventura, CA 93009

From: **County of Ventura**
RMA, Planning Division
800 South Victoria Ave., L#1740
Ventura, CA 93009

Office of Planning and Research
1440 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Only if State discretionary approval is required)

A. **Project Description:**

1. **Entitlement:** Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance Amendments (PL24-0019)
2. **Applicant's Name:** County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, Planning Division
3. **Applicant's Address:** 800 South Victoria Ave., L#1740, Ventura, CA 93009
4. **Location:** Unincorporate Ventura County (See the attached USGS map.)
5. **Assessor Parcel No.:** N/A; Countywide
6. **Project Description:** County-Initiated Ordinance Amending Articles 2, 5, 7 and 19 of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) to Amend the Definition for "Energy Production from Renewable Sources" and Add a Definition, Use Category, and Acreage Limitation for "Energy Storage" Facilities in Certain Zones.

Description of the NCZO Amendments

- Article 2 – Definitions: Modify the existing title and definition for "energy production from renewable sources" to "energy production from renewable sources and energy storage." Create a new definition for "energy storage."
- Article 5 – Both the Open Space, Agricultural, Residential and Special Purpose Zones Use Matrix in Section 8105-4 and the Commercial and Industrial Zones Use Matrix in Section 8105-5 were modified to update the existing "energy production from renewable sources" use title and to incorporate "energy storage" use in the commercial and industrial zones.
- Article 7 – Standards for Specific Uses: A new subsection was added, Section 8107-49, which includes development standards for "energy production from renewable sources and energy storage" and includes an acreage limitation for

energy storage uses in the Open Space, Agricultural Exclusive, and Rural Agricultural zones.

- Article 19 – Old Town Saticoy Development Code: Amend the use matrix to add the “energy storage” use under the “warehousing and storage” category.

B. Lead Agency Contact:

1. **Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, Planning Division
2. **Contact Person:** Donald Nielsen, Case Planner
3. **Telephone No.:** 805.650.4047
4. **E-mail Address:** Donald.Nielsen@ventura.org

C. Exempt Status: **Categorical Exemption** (Sec. 15308, Actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment; Class 8) and **No Impact** (Sec. 15061[b][3])

D. Justification for Exemption:


The Proposed Amendments are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the amendments may cause a significant effect on the environment. Currently, there is no established limitation on the amount of land that can be devoted to energy storage in the OS, AE, and RA zones. The project limits the number of acres in these zones that can be used for energy storage facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Amendments are protective of the environment and will not cause a significant effect upon it.

Additionally, the Proposed Amendments are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15308 (Class 8) as a regulatory action to assure the maintenance and protection of the environment, and no unusual circumstances or other exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 preclude application of the Class 8 exemption. The Proposed Amendments merely codify an existing Planning Director Use Equivalency Determination that already allows battery energy storage in the OS, AE, and RA zones, and the Proposed Amendments limit the number of acres that are allowed to be utilized for energy storage in those zones. Therefore, the Proposed Amendments maintain and protect the existing environment.

The Proposed Amendments are also programmatic so subsequent individual projects will be reviewed for environmental impacts through the discretionary approval process.

Project Approval: May 21, 2024

Prepared by: Donald Nielsen, Case Planner

Reviewed by: 
Aaron Engstrom, Manager
Area Plans and Resources Section
Ventura County Planning Division