

# Notice of Exemption

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**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:** Clean Hydrogen in Lebec (CHIL)

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**Project Applicant:** Pilot Travel Centers

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**Project Location - Specific:**

- 42810 Frazier Mountain Park Rd, Lebec, CA 93243

**Project Location - City:** Lebec

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**Project Location - County:** Los Angeles County

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

The project involves the installation of a public hydrogen refueling station, including two rapid H70 hydrogen dispensers, as well as one 25,000-gallon liquid hydrogen storage tank at an already existing refueling hub located in Lebec, CA. Included in the project is an fueling hub, which includes pumps, tanks, and gas condition equipment (totaling 1,944 sq. ft.) and a shade structure (1,287 sq. ft).

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

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**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Pilot Travel Centers

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**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: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15301; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15303
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- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

T Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15301 Existing Facilities provides that the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features which involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the responsible agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project involves the installation of a public hydrogen refueling station, including two rapid H70 hydrogen dispensers, gas conditioning equipment, pumps, a shade structure, and one 25,000-gallon liquid hydrogen storage tank at an existing truck stop located in Lebec, CA. At the existing site, there is currently heavy-duty gasoline refueling equipment. The proposed new equipment would be installed at an existing paved parking lot adjacent to the existing truck stop and refueling equipment. The project will not affect any visual resources, such as protected trees or historic resources. The installation for the refueling stations will involve excavating for foundations and new piping, laying new piping and conduits, grading, and applying concrete and/or asphalt paving. Additionally, there will be minor trenching necessary for installing pipes and conduits for the dispenser system.

This project is therefore categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA under section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines, and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 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 project consists of installation of new, small equipment; specifically, a fueling hub, which includes dispensers, pumps, tanks, and gas conditioning equipment (totaling 1,944 square feet) and a shade structure (1,287 square feet).

The project does not involve any unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to any scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, none of the sites are 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. The project, when considered as a whole, will not result in a cumulative impact that is significant on the environment. Therefore, none of the exceptions to 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:** Vivian Nguyen

**Area**

**Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 244-9673

**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: 8/21/2024 Title: Energy Analyst

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed By Applicant

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