

# Notice of Exemption

Form D

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

**From:** California Energy Commission  
715 P Street, MS-27  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** The Gilroy Distribution Center Electric Tractor Charging Project

**Project Applicant:** United Natural Foods West, Inc.

**Project Location - Specific:** 6351 Cameron Blvd Gilroy, CA 95020 Parcel 841-17-121

**Project Location - City:** Gilroy

**Project Location - County:** Santa Clara

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

Under agreement ARV-24-XXX, the California Energy Commission will provide a grant of \$5,000,000 to United Natural Foods West, Inc. to install and deploy charging infrastructure including nine 180kW dual-port charging stations, three 480kW quad-port DC fast charging stations, a 1.2 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar canopy, and a 1MW battery electric storage system, to support a zero-emission fleet of 30 battery-electric tractors at UNFI's distribution center in Gilroy, California.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** United Natural Foods West, 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: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15301, 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

## Reasons why project is exempt:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 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 (CEQA). This project will install electrical infrastructure and electric vehicle charging stations in an existing parking facility, which will require foundation and electrical upgrades. Construction activities will include minimal grading, trenching from the electrical conduit, and new pipelines for electrical. The electrical vehicle charging station, solar canopy, and battery energy storage system will be installed on an existing parking lot and will involve negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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 to an existing site. There will be 12 charging stations, a solar canopy, and a battery energy storage system installed at a distribution center in Gilroy. The equipment will be installed in an existing, paved parking lot. Therefore, the project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 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 and agricultural purposes are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. In this project, trenching will be necessary to bury conduit from the electrical panel to the charging stations. The trenching will take place on currently paved ground, will not involve the removal of any trees, and surface will be restored. Therefore, the project falls within section 15304 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

This 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 impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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 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: Daniel Siu Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-908-7483

**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: Daniel Siu Date: 08/14/2024 Title: Energy Analyst

- Signed by Responsible Agency
- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signed by Applicant