

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

From: California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: SolarAPP Foundation

Project Title: SolarAPP+ Expansion: Integrating Solar and Storage Virtual Inspections and Automating Residential EV Charger Permitting and Plan Review

Project Location – Specific: 429 Sycamore St

Project Location – City: San Carlos 94070

Project Location – County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The goals of this project are to:

1. Develop and Pilot Virtual Inspection Tools: Create NFPA 915-compliant workflows for remote inspections, enabling faster, more reliable review processes for solar and clean energy technologies.
2. Develop and Pilot Residential EVSE Permitting and Plan Review Tools: Create automated permitting and plan review tools for residential EVSE, integrating utility requirements, fire code compliance, and bidirectional power transfer support to meet California's growing demand for EV infrastructure.
3. Increase Access in Disadvantaged Communities: Prioritize underserved areas to reduce costs, shorten timelines, and expand access to affordable clean energy technologies.
4. Validate and Disseminate Results: Measure the cost, time, and environmental benefits of SolarAPP+ and share insights broadly through methods such as reports and training to support scalability and nationwide adoption.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SolarAPP Foundation

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306 provides that basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project concerns

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

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the development and piloting digital tools for virtual inspections and residential EV permitting, which are software-based solutions designed to streamline permitting processes for clean energy projects. These new tools will be tested in SolarAPP+, an online software platform, to collect data regarding virtual inspections of EV installations and improve code compliance. This work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. For these reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

Additionally, 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 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.

Public Agency

Contact Person: Ayat Osman, Ph.D.

Area code/Telephone/Ext: 1 916-909-2558

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: *Ayat Osman*

Date: 10/16/2025

Title: EGSS I

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR:

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