



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 24-03/12/2026-0035  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY MERCED COUNTY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/12/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING MERCED COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2026-EIR-035	
PROJECT TITLE		

SPIKES PEAK SOLAR TEMPORARY METEOROLOGICAL STATION (ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT NO. AA25-024)

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SPIKES PEAK SOLAR, LLC	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (209) 385-7654
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 2222 M STREET	CITY MERCED	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95340

**PROJECT APPLICANT** (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)    \$ 4,227.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)    \$ 3,043.75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW    \$ 1,437.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Exempt from fee  
      Notice of Exemption (attach)  
      CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)    \$ 850.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 County documentary handling fee    \$ 50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00  
 Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> <i>Lea Holguin</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Lea Holguin Deputy Clerk
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**Notice of Exemption****FILED**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**From:** Merced County  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**March 12, 2026**  
**MATT H. MAY**  
**COUNTY CLERK**

By *Leah H. Halpin*  
Deputy Clerk

**Project Title:** Spikes Peak Solar Temporary Meteorological Station (Administrative Permit No. AA25-024)

**Project Applicant:** Spikes Peak Solar, LLC

**Project Location:** The project site is located on the west side of Interstate-5, approximately one mile south of West Butts Road in the Gustine area identified as Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 069-220-014, 069-220-036, 069-220-046, 069-220-049, and 069-220-067.

**Project City:** Unincorporated Merced County      **Project County:** Merced County

**Project Description:**

The project proposes to install a temporary solar meteorological station to measure irradiance, temperature, wind speed, precipitation, and other meteorological measurements for a period of up to three years. The project site is designated Agricultural land use in the General Plan and zoned A-1 (General Agriculture).

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Merced, Community & Economic Development Department

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project:** Ana Browning, Planner I

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 145269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306 ("Information Collection"); 15303 ("Small Structures");
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: Section 15061(b)(3) (common sense exemption)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project proposes a temporary meteorological tower to collect information such as irradiance, temperature, wind speed, and precipitation. Due to its small size, temporary nature, and the applicant's proposal to use biological monitors during installation and removal, the project would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Nor would County approval of this use permit restrict the County's ability to approve, reject or modify any separate proposal to develop a solar energy project at the site. It is thus exempt under Section 15306. Similarly, because the project would involve only limited numbers of small structures, it is also exempt under Section 15303, which applies even to much larger structures, such as single-family residences and duplexes. Finally, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed project – temporary installation of a small meteorological station under the supervision of biological monitors – may have a significant effect on the environment, it is exempt under Section 15061(b)(3). None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Ana Browning, Planner I

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (209) 385-7654 ext. 4422

**Signature & Date:**

**Ana Browning** Digitally signed by Ana Browning  
Date: 2026.03.12 08:18:18 -07'00'

Date  
Received  
for filing:

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