

Notice of Exemption

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: EVGateway's EV charging infrastructure in rural communities

Project Applicant: EVGateway

Project Location(s) - Specific: California – Northern & Southern

Project Location(s) - City: Various (Oroville, Arvin, Chowchilla, Arcata, Bakersfield, and Fortuna.)

Project Location(s) - County: Various (Butte, Humboldt, Kern, and Madera)

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will install of at least 36 160 kW DC fast chargers along underserved corridors in CalEnviroScreen-identified DAC/LIC and rural census tracts at six rural sites throughout California, including but not limited to Butte, Humboldt, Kern, and Madera counties.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: EVGateway

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: §15301, §15303 and §15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

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). This project will involve the installation of at least 36 160 kW DC fast chargers, with mechanical dimensions of 29" length x 26.5" depth x 73" height each approximately within a 1ft³ space, along underserved corridors in CalEnviroScreen-identified DAC/LIC and rural census tracts at six rural sites in Oroville, Arvin, Chowchilla, Arcata, Bakersfield, and Fortuna. The electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at existing, paved parking spaces. Therefore, this project is exempt under

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California Code of Regulations, title 14, 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 existing sites. This project involves installation of at least 36 160 kW DC fast chargers along underserved corridors in CalEnviroScreen-identified DAC/LIC and rural census tracts at six rural sites in Oroville, Arvin, Chowchilla, Arcata, Bakersfield, and Fortuna. The footprint of each charger is small, with mechanical dimensions of 29" length x 26.5" depth x 73" height each approximately within a 1ft³ space. The equipment will be installed in existing, paved parking lots. 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. This project involves installation of electric vehicle charging stations in existing, paved parking spaces. Minor trenching may be necessary to connect the proposed charging stations to an existing fuel supply. The work will not involve the removal of any mature, scenic trees. Therefore, this project is exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304.

For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under sections 15301, 15303, and 15304.

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.

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Responsible

Agency

Contact Person: Iris Dimpsey

Area

Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 314 3381

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: Iris Dimpsey **Date:** 1/12/2026 **Title:** Energy Analyst

Signed by Responsible Agency Signed By Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____