

Attachment 2

Powerflex EV Chargers - CEQA Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services (Lead Agency)

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): 059-140-023, 111-231-004, 029-162-036, 059-140-029, 113-210-022, 099-141-019, 111-231-004, 111-231-009, 128-085-040

LOCATION: The following County Government locations: 548 W. Foster Rd., 4568 Calle Real, 1112 Santa Barbara St., 315 Camino Del Remedio, 4436 Calle Real, 4415 Cathedral Oaks, 2310 Black Rd., 2010 Sweeney Rd., 620 W. Foster Rd., 912 W. Foster Rd., 2115 Centerpointe Pkwy.

PROJECT TITLE Purchase and Eventual Installation of EV Charging Stations

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed action involves the purchase and eventual installation of up to 177 electric vehicle charging stations at eleven County owned locations.

EXEMPT STATUS:(Check One)

Ministerial

Statutory

Categorical Exemption (15303)

Emergency Project

No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061 (b,3)].

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: Class 3, §15303: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary)

A project is exempt if it consists of constructing and locating a limited number of new, small facilities or structures and/or installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. The current project consists of the installation of numerous electric vehicle charging stations, which are new, small facilities, facilities and/or equipment. The installation of these EV chargers will not materially change the existing condition of affected parking lots, traffic flows, existing building operations, nor create adverse environmental impacts due to the minor trenching required to provide power and communication services to the EV charger Sites.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The electric vehicle charging stations will not be located in a particularly sensitive environment. Their locations are on parking lots. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

No other charging stations are located at the proposed at the sites that would contribute to cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The facilities would be installed in existing parking lots. There are no unusual circumstances that are present at the sites or the surrounding area that would result in a significant effect on the environment. There fore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The proposed project would not cause damage to any designated scenic resources and there is no development proposed within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. Therefore, this exception to the exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The proposed project is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception to the exemption does not apply.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed development would have no impact on any historical resource. Therefore, this exception to the exemption does not apply.

Department/Division Representative:  Date: 06/08/2023
Skip Grey, Asst. Director

NOTE: A copy must be posted DERC at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.