

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.03)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: County of San Bernardino

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : CA-County-San Bernardino - EECBG Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA0000013	DE-EE0000901	GFO-0000901-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided funding to the County of San Bernardino (County) under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The County proposes to use \$1,273,976 of EECBG funding to design and install a 33 kW roof-mounted solar photovoltaic system and a 125 kW photovoltaic system located on a parking structure that will be installed at the newly-constructed Joshua Tree County Building, located at 63665 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA (proposed project)

The County originally proposed a 60kW ground-mounted photovoltaic system, which would have been covered by its signed SOW. The 33kW roof-mounted system is still categorically excluded under the County's signed SOW. The County now proposed to increase the size of the ground-mounted photovoltaic system to 125kW, which would be located on a newly constructed parking structure at the Joshua Tree County Building. Because of the proposed increase in size of the ground-mounted system, DOE must review the new proposal under NEPA. The Joshua Tree County Building is currently under construction and the construction and installation of the parking structure and 125kW photovoltaic system does not enable; nor is connected to construction of the building.

The proposed project and associated actions have the potential to impact the following resource areas:

Land Use: The total ground disturbance for the proposed project is <.5 acre and the solar arrays would be installed on a parking structure, which would be mounted on poles and cement pilings adjacent the newly-constructed Joshua Tree County Building. Site preparation consists of grading and leveling; which has already been completed for the entire construction site. DOE has determined the proposed project would have a minimal impact on land use.

Visual Impacts: The Joshua Tree County Building is located in a residential and commercial area with an open field across Twentynine Palms Highway. DOE has determined the installation of the solar array and associated parking structure would have negligible visual impacts.

Historic and Cultural: Due to the surrounding land use and prior ground disturbance, DOE has determined the proposed project would not adversely impact historic or cultural resources. Should unanticipated discoveries be made during construction, the County would immediately cease construction and contact the California State Historic Preservation Officer for guidance.

Biological: Based on a review of the existing conditions at the proposed project location and the lack of potential for threatened and endangered species to be impacted by the proposed project, DOE has determined the proposed project would not impact listed or eligible species in the area.

Based on review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed project does not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to the human environment. The proposed project is a small-scale and commercially available solar photovoltaic system located on previously disturbed land -- DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.16.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

DOE funding - \$1,273,976
EF2a completed by Melissa Rossiter

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By Kristin Kerwin Date: 2/28/2012
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager