

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE :** CRED - SMUD: Solar Highways

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000122	DE-EE0003070		0

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:

**A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

**Rational for determination:**

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District for the design and installation of 1.5 MW of utility-scale solar power installations on Caltrans property along highway and freeway corridors throughout Sacramento and the State of California. The demonstration project includes three PV system installations along approximately 2 miles of Highway 50. The sites selected for this project include the northern bank of the Highway 50 Corridor from 65th Street to Stockton Boulevard, the North-West corner of the Mather Field Road interchange, and approximately 1,000 feet in the westbound direction of Highway 50 from Mather Field Road.

Phase I work for the Solar Highway project includes the development of the Phase II feasibility study, the environmental work need for CEQA and NEPA requirements, and work related to permitting activities. These activities relate to Task 1 outlined in the SOPO. No ground-disturbing activities or installations will occur as part of Phase 1.

The phase II feasibility study will address in more detail the potential impacts on surface water and soil erosion, and the potential impacts of glare on driver safety. That information is needed to make a final NEPA determination for this project. Thus, a final NEPA determination will be made after the Phase II report is submitted to DOE.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Capital expenditures, installation or construction, and any earth moving or disturbing activities.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Environmental impact evaluations and regulatory compliance activities; Phase II studies, preliminary design work; and

project management activities (Phase I).

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/18/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_